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FANS BACK IN ENGLISH SPORTS FROM NEXT WEEK

Spectators will be allowed into select sporting events from next week ahead of a planned wider reopening in October

CRICKET FIRST TO WITNESS SPECTATORS

Domestic cricket on July 26-27 is set to be the first sport that fans would be allowed to watch in person since March. Some spectators will also be allowed into the world snooker championship in Sheffield from July 31. The Glorious Goodwood horse racing festival on August 1 is also part of a government scheme piloting the return of fans

EPL SEASON TO END SANS FANS

■ Stadium capacities will be restricted and staggered entry times, social distancing measures and one-way systems will be required
■ Plans to bring crowd to the third Test between England and West Indies were scrapped after ECB and government discussions
■ Premier League will finish season without fans so will FA Cup

5000

PEOPLE+PARTICIPANTS CAN ATTEND
THE GOODWOOD EVENT

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BANGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLU GUDDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THIRISSUR • KALABURGI

K'TAKA MAY RUN INTO BIGGER COVID CRISIS ROUND THE CORNER

Shortage of beds can worsen the situation; Experts warn of strain on healthcare system

RANJANI MADHAVAN @Bengaluru

A looming health crisis stares the state in the face and its capital Bengaluru may most likely bear the brunt of it. Experts have warned of a huge shortage in beds and healthcare personnel even as Covid-19 cases are skyrocketing. These problems have already existed on the ground, but will only worsen as the state continues to break its own record every day in the number of cases, they warn.

As on Friday, Karnataka recorded 55,115 Covid-19 cases of which 33,205 are active. Of these, Bengaluru's count is 27,496 cases, of which 20,623 are active cases currently under treatment.

The BBMP's real-time dashboard on availability of beds as on July 17 shows 396 of them available in government hospitals, 58 in government medical colleges, 4,585 in private hospitals, 924 in private medical colleges and 239 in Covid Care Centres.

Over the last few days, 1,700 AYUSH doctors and 42,000 ASHA workers have stopped reporting to work, further straining the already ailing public healthcare system in Karnataka.

BSY to meet pvt medical colleges

Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa has called a meeting with representatives of private college hospitals at his home office 'Krishna' at 4 pm on Saturday, in a bid to seek suggestions from them towards fighting the pandemic better. **P4**

ka. Dr Satyanarayana Mysore, HoD of Pulmonology at Manipal Hospital explained that it is not just about reaching the peak, but how we reach it.

"If we reach two lakh cases in 10 days, there is no chance we will have enough beds. If we reach the same figure in two months, we still have a chance of finding beds for patients. In Bengaluru, if we see around 800 cases per day, and say 60 of them need ICU, it will be difficult to find ICU beds for all of them. None of the prediction models are accurate and there are a lot of unpredictable factors driving this pandemic," said Dr Mysore, who is also on the tele-ICU committee which is monitoring high-risk cases in the state. **P5**



Healthcare personnel in PPE suits attend to a person at a Covid-19 fever clinic on JC Road in Bengaluru on Friday | MEGHANA SASTRY

CM not for extending lockdown

ANUSHA RAVI @Bengaluru

WITH the state's finances under severe stress, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa has categorically ruled out extending the lockdown in Bengaluru by another week. At a meeting of Bengaluru zonal in-charge ministers, officials and MPs on Friday, Yediyurappa asked for focus to be shifted on resolving issues related to the testing-hospitalisation-recovery process.

Sources in the Chief Minister's Office said that given the

heavy losses being incurred by the State Government as well as private individuals due to the lockdown, Yediyurappa does not see it as a viable option anymore. Despite the steep spike in the number of cases, the CM is keen on allowing all economic activity, while addressing existing loopholes and scaling up testing and healthcare facilities further. Karnataka has so far tested 9,50,177 samples since March, with 24,700 of them tested on Friday alone.

KARNATAKA COVID-19 BATTLE

3,693

TEST +VE ON FRIDAY

55,115

TOTAL CASES

20,757

RECOVERIES

1,147

TOTAL DEATHS

Bengaluru Urban district reports a massive 2,208 cases in a single day

Replication of Dharavi model to contain spread commences in Mysuru

Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Bhaskar Rao in home quarantine after driver tests positive

FULL COVERAGE: P4

Fight exacerbates as FIR names Union minister for Raj plot

RAJESH ASHANI @Jaipur

RAJASTHAN'S political temperature went up a notch on Friday with the Special Operations Group (SOG) of the state police filing two first information reports accusing Union minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and rebel Congress MLA Bhanwar Lal Sharma of hatching a plot to topple the Ashok Gehlot government.

Sanjiv Jain, an agent-cum-businessman, was also named in the FIR and has been arrested. The BJP denied any links with him.

The day began with Congress spokesperson Randeep Surjewala claiming a few audio tapes surfaced on Thursday revealing alleged conversations of rebel Congress MLA Bhanwar Lal Sharma with BJP leaders on a trade-off to pull down the government. The Congress claimed one of the voices was that of Shekhawat, a senior BJP leader from Rajasthan and Union Minister for Jal Shakti.

The New Indian Express cannot vouch for the veracity of the audio tapes.

"Congress has suspended Bhanwar Lal Sharma and Vishvendra Singh from the primary membership of the party," Surjewala said and demanded a full probe by the SOG, after which the FIRs were filed. The SOG then sent a team to interrogate the accused MLAs, but were prevented by the Haryana Police from entering the hotel in Manesar where Sachin Pilot's



Ready for probe, says Union minister

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat was quick to deny any role in the deal-making. "I am ready to face any investigation. The audio tape doesn't have my voice. If I am called for questioning, I will definitely go," Shekhawat said. Bhanwar Lal Sharma, too, said the tapes were fake.

loyalists are lodged. The special team also intends to move court to seek voice samples of all the accused to verify the audio tapes.

However, Pilot got some relief as the Rajasthan High Court asked Assembly Speaker CP Joshi to put on hold any action against the rebels till Monday, when the hearing will resume. The order came before the deadline set by Joshi's office for responding to his disqualification notices to the 19 rebels, was to expire.

During the arguments, senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing virtually from his London home for Pilot, told the court that violation of the whip's directions with respect to acts outside the Assembly do not fall under the ambit of the Tenth Schedule. **P7**

Only 20% active cases in hospital care: Govt

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @New Delhi

ABOUT 2.73 lakh or roughly 80% of India's 3.42 lakh active Covid-19 cases as of Thursday have either no symptoms or mild symptoms, and are in home isolation, the Union Health Ministry said on Friday. The rest, about 70,000 cases, are undergoing treatment at hospitals.

This is for the first time the

Centre is revealing the composition of Covid-19 cases in home isolation.

"Almost 80% of the asymptomatic and mild cases have been advised home isolation under medical supervision," the ministry said in a statement on Friday.

"The moderate and severe patients are being treated in either the dedicated Covid-19 hospitals or dedicated health cen-

tres," the statement said.

Keeping mild and asymptomatic patients under home isolation has helped ease the burden on hospitals, which are focused on treating severe cases and reducing the fatality rate, it noted.

The ministry said less than 1.94% of the current cases or 6,643 patients are lodged in ICUs, 0.35% or 1,198 patients are on ventilator support and

2.81% or 9,623 on oxygen beds.

The ministry maintained that the country has followed a standard of care protocol for the differentiated categorisation of coronavirus patients—mild, moderate and severe—as clearly laid down in the Covid-19 clinical management protocol. "The effective clinical management strategies have shown to yield positive results," the ministry noted.



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Rahul faults foreign policy, EAM hits back

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

THE transformation of retired diplomat and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar into a *net* appeared complete on Friday after his stinging rebuttal to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's tweet and a video he posted earlier in the day.

Jaishankar has been smarting under attacks of late on his performance, including from within his party itself. On Friday, he gave it back to Rahul, tearing up his criticism of the government's foreign policy. Jaishankar said under the Modi dispensation, India's major partnerships are stronger; international standing higher and it engages China on more equal terms politically.

Rahul shared his thoughts on why China was aggressive and alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policy "indiscretions" had left the country vulnerable. Joining issue with him, Jaishankar said major partnerships had been strengthened, adding: "Ask the analysts." India speaks its mind more openly now, he said, along with the one-liner: "Ask the media." About improvement in ties with Maldives, "Ask our businesses." On development assistance to Nepal, "Ask their citizens." And on the firm line on Pakistan, "Ask yourself."

FULL COVERAGE: P7

'FULL RESOLUTION OF ROW NOT GUARANTEED'

DEFENCE Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday said the ongoing Sino-Indian stand-off in Eastern Ladakh ought to get resolved going by the way talks have progressed so far, but could not guarantee the extent of its resolution. He was addressing soldiers on his arrival at Lukung in Ladakh, which is near Pangong Lake where the People's Liberation Army (PLA) had clashed with Indian troops, which triggered the stand-off. "With the extent of progress in talks, the issue ought to get resolved, but I cannot guarantee to what extent it will be sorted out. But, I want to assure everyone that no power of this world can touch even an inch of land of India."



BESCOM

Sets Up EV Charging Stations in Bangalore City

BESCOM has installed 12 DC Fast charging stations and 100 AC charging points in various locations of Bangalore city in support of Electric Vehicle and Energy Storage Policy 2017 issued by the Government of Karnataka to promote e-mobility. The EV charging stations and charging points have been thrown open for the public use.

With the Support of Transport Department and Government of Karnataka, BESCOM has set up the Vehicle charging stations and are as below:

Charger Type	Installed during 2018	Installed with support of Transport Department in 2019	Total vehicles that can be charged
DC Fast Chargers	4	26	30
AC Slow Chargers	6	100	115

DC EV Charging Stations are setup at the following BESCOM office locations :

a) Corporate Office, K R Circle, b) Byatarayanapura W6 Sub-Division (Mysore Road), c) Katriguppe O&M Office (Near Indira Canteen), d) BTM Layout O&M Office (Near Udupi Garden Signal), e) HSR Layout Division Office (2nd Sector), f) Indiranagar E6 Sub-Division, HAL 2nd Stage, g) Mahadevapura E12 Sub-Division, Near Phoenix Market City, h) Banasawadi E8 Sub-Division (Near Banasawadi Police Station), i) Yelahanka C7 Sub-Division, Police Station Circle, j) Mathikere C6 Sub-Division, Below Flyover, k) Peenya N4 Sub-Division, l) Murugeshpalya O&M Office, HAL Road.

AC Charging Points are installed in Bengaluru City at parking lots :

a) BESCOM Offices, b) TTMC buildings, c) BDA Complexes, d) KSRTC Mysuru Road & Peenya Terminals, e) BBMP Ward Offices, f) KIADB Jigani, g) RTO Offices etc.,

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To safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the Fundamental Duty of every Indian.



Shri B.S. Yediyurappa
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Customer should download mobile phone application "ElectreeFi" for using the vehicle charging services. User has to register in the application along with vehicle details.



Charges for availing EV Charging Services :

Connector Type	Rates (in Rs/unit) incl. of taxes
AC Slow Charging (IEC 60309 Connector)	₹ 7.30
DC Charging (GB/T Connector)	₹ 7.42
DC Fast Charging (CCS / CHAdeMO Connector)	₹ 7.99





'Covid-19 can spread during eye surgery'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A STUDY by city-based researchers has found that laser surgery on the eyes performed to correct near or far-sightedness can pose a fair degree of risk of Covid-19 infection spreading to those performing the surgery.

They have urged adequate precaution when these procedures resume, which have been restricted now due to the raging pandemic.

Researchers from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) collaborated with eye specialists from Narayana Nethrayalaya to investigate aerosol generation during the surgery, more commonly known as LASIK surgery, to correct myopia (short-sight) or hypermetropia (far-sight).

The researchers found that as the oscillating blade cut through to the stroma, some droplets were generated. "We identified the size of the droplets, and also calculated the speed and distance they travel," says Saptarshi Basu, professor at the Department of Mechanical Engineering, IISc, and co-author of two papers published in the *Journal of Cataract and Refractive Surgery*.

These droplets were found to be large in size (over 90 micrometers) and therefore likely to settle down fast, reducing the risk that they will become aerosolised.

Aerosols generated during surgeries and out-patient procedures can be risky to healthcare workers. Nose, mouth and eyes are understood to be sources of Covid-19 spread. And because the droplets from the eyes were found to travel up to 1.8 m in a simulated surgery setting, the study urges doctors to take adequate precautions.

Shorter business hours take toll on APMC Yard

Already reeling from supply disruptions due to the previous lockdown, the market could take a further hit if the current restrictions continue

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

PERMISSION to operate essential services between 5 am and noon during the current lockdown is hitting the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) Yard in Yeshwanthpur hard. Groceries and vegetables from across the country come to 1,980 shops in South India's largest wholesale market and are sold to retailers in Bengaluru and surrounding areas.

The Yeshwanthpur market,

which is already reeling from supply disruptions caused by the previous lockdown that lasted nearly three months, could take a further hit if current restrictions continue, said Ramesh Chandra Lahoti, chairman of the APMC Committee of the Federation of Karnataka Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"The current morning timings do not suit yard working timings at all. Incoming business continues to be 100% but

outgoing business is only around 25%. Business hours need to be between 10 am and 3 pm or 4 pm to suit us," he said.

Bangalore Wholesale Foodgrains and Pulses Merchants Association president Sanjay Bhasin said, "We used to open at 10.30am, but advanced it to around 8am due to the lockdown this week. But this is too early as workers who carry out loading and unloading cannot reach by 5 am as they live far away from here."



Shops near the APMC Yard in Yeshwanthpur remain shut on Friday | VINOD KUMAR T

A truck delivers goods to more than one shop. "It takes an hour or two at each place. So a truck cannot complete even unloading in half a day. This has forced them to increase transportation costs this week. Retailers who buy from us also face similar problems," he said. "Labourers, traders, retailers, all of us are impacted by it. The government needs to consider extending the closing hours by some time," Bhasin added.



With transport services temporarily suspended, BMTC buses parked at Yeshwanthpur Bus Depot on Friday | PANDARINATH B

Mayor, BBMP commissioner want lockdown till month-end

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

TWO top city corporation heads have said the lockdown should continue till the end of the month. The duo has expressed the view that with the rising number of cases, they need more time to be better prepared.

Mayor M Goutham Kumar and Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Commissioner BH Anil Kumar asserted that their views and suggestions to the government were personal, and based on what they were seeing on the ground. It was up to the government to

take the final decision.

The Commissioner told *The New Indian Express* that there was a need to extend the lockdown by another week. The lockdown ends on July 22, and another week of closure will help break the chain and get more facilities on the ground, he said.

The Mayor said that while visiting some areas on Friday, he did not see norms being followed — citizens were not wearing masks or maintaining social distancing, and were seen rushing around in crowded places.

This being the case, an extension of the lockdown is required to be better prepared for

the spike in cases. He added that the final decision has been taken by Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa, but it was his opinion that there should be a stricter lockdown.

Another senior BBMP official said: "This is not the first time we had suggested to the government to have a long strict lockdown. We had said it when discussions had started on the issue of lockdown, however they said they will look into it and announced a lockdown only till July 22."

The Chief Minister was not keen on their demand, and is said to have brushed aside the issue.



This is not the first time we suggested a strict lockdown to the government. We had said it when discussions had started on the issue of lockdown, they said they will look into it and announced a lockdown only till July 22
BBMP official

Ministers responsible for patient transfer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"THE State Government has sought the Centre's assistance in scaling up tests — be it in terms of kits or facilities. My suggestion to the State Government is to follow the Delhi model that prioritises home quarantine for asymptomatic patients so that patients in need of Covid Care Centres or hospitals will have beds vacant," Union Minister D V Sadananda Gowda told *TNIE*.

During the meeting, it was conveyed to the in-charge ministers that they will be held directly responsible for testing, transfer of patients to hospitals or Covid Care Centres, facilities at the care centres and hospitals, availability of beds and basic amenities like food and medicine supply in their respective zones. It was also decided to conduct rapid antigen tests for the deceased — even those who die at home — before handing the mortal remains for last rites as per Standard Operating Procedure. Other issues like recruitment of doctors to fill vacant posts, identifying volunteers at each ward to coordinate with private hospitals, notifying ambulances ward-wise were also discussed. Wedding halls and hotels in each ward will be identified to quarantine people who cannot undergo home quarantine.

GOOD TIDINGS

Vanivilas welcomes 100th baby during pandemic

IFFATH FATHIMA @Bengaluru

AT 2.03 am on Friday, a 25-year-old woman delivered a baby boy who weighed a healthy 3.45kg. For staff at the state-run Vanivilas Hospital, this baby is a little more special than others as his mother is the 100th Covid-positive woman they have safely seen through childbirth.

"She came to our hospital at 11 pm on Thursday, after we had already delivered four babies. But after we reached our 100th delivery, there was satisfaction and happiness among all the staff," Anitha GS, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynaecology (OBG) at Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI) told *The New Indian Express*.

Since May 9, around 350 Covid-positive pregnant women have been admitted to the Trauma and Emergency Care Centre (TECC) at Victoria Hospital, adjacent to Vanivilas

Hospital premises, while non-Covid deliveries continue at Vanivilas.

Dr Smitha Segu, TECC Nodal Officer who coordinates staff and logistics, said, "Doctors, anaesthetists, technicians, nurses and interns have all worked continuously with support from the Covid task force committee of Victoria Hospital."

"Even without Covid, delivering babies is difficult. But now, with everyone having to wear PPE, it gets more difficult. But reaching 100 deliveries is a victory," said Dr Geetha Shivamurthy, Medical Superintendent of Vanivilas Hospital.

That victory however, was tinged with some tragedy. Doctors found that two of the 100 women had lost their babies before they could be born. In just a week ending July 17, they performed 47 deliveries. "This shows Covid cases have been increasing. Every day is a huge victory for us," Dr Anitha says.

Covid-positive women from all over the State come to the hospital for delivery and are anxious. "They are stressed out as they are Covid-positive and fear their babies might contract it too. Lastly, they have no family to support them. We hold counselling sessions for them every day. Usually, when a woman delivers, the whole family is present and everyone is happy. But that's not the case now, because the woman has to be in the Covid ward," she said.



Dr Anitha G S with the 100th baby at Vanivilas Hospital on Friday

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

18th July: A set of intriguing planetary alignments combine to create an abundance of passion plus a sense of commitment. As a matter of fact, it's an ideal time for falling in - or out of - love. But there's no reason why we should solely be attracted to other people. It might be pets, places, beliefs or principles which take your fancy.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Your stars begin to look more relaxed and enjoyable, although those of you with responsibility for children may have to dream of future pleasures rather than experience them now. You should respect a confidence for a little while longer. The last thing you want to do is blurt out somebody else's secret.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

An upheaval on the work front may have been delayed. Today's planets put the emphasis on family and home, and you may have to face up to duties you'd hoped would go away! Your financial stars begin to look easier, so that's good news. When your costs are actually out is another question!

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Mercurial alignments often bring out the best in your character. Today is therefore a moment for rapid thought, plenty of chat, and lively social visits. Don't let routine chores get in your way, for your first priority should be pleasure.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

The emotional pressure you've been under should now begin to lift, which means you are unlikely to experience any lows, but you may miss the highs as well. You might appreciate the drift towards a more settled existence, welcoming the opportunity to restore a sense of order.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Now that the Moon is so strong, you can call the shots. There is no reason for other people to hold you back, and if they don't dance to your tune, that is their problem! In love, your dreams may be of a spiritual union rather than raw passion. Not that there's anything wrong with that!

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sept 23)

You may spend as much time as you like by yourself, and make sure that other people don't pry into your affairs or extract secrets which they have no right to know. For the business-minded, the best investments are to be found in the world of ideas or communication.

LIBRA (Sept 24 - Oct 23)

You may still be wondering what hit you, or why other people seem so reluctant to apportion blame. At least, in future you won't have to work so hard to keep everything nice and pleasant. That task can be left to people who think they can do better.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

Leisure activities are likely to be affected by certain long-standing ambitions, and the best course of action today is one which increases your status, prestige and self-confidence. Even romantic connections will be affected by your pride! On the other hand, there are people who might be put off if you appear too too arrogant.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

Time has moved on, and old problems are really not so important. You can now begin to look at home and family affairs with fresh eyes, free from the uncertainties of the recent past. Never forget the lessons that have been learnt, and remember that sometimes the old ways are the best.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

It's time for romantic optimism, perhaps to get in touch with loved ones who are far away, or who have been keeping themselves for far too long. You may bring travel plans up to date now, or risk a series of messy misunderstandings. And there's no point in that, now, is there?

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

You want to do your best, to be noticed and appreciated, but above all, it's a day for partnership, for taking care of loved ones, and for doing everything in a spirit of teamwork and co-operation. If others appear to be taking a lion's share, be gracious and give them their due.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

It's certainly a day to keep busy, and many of you may be putting in a spot of overtime or otherwise occupying yourself on unpaid business. You seem to have more energy than usual at the moment, especially now that all those old emotional cares are easing.

THE PHANTOM



HI AND LOIS



BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



LOCKHORNS



DENNIS THE MENACE



Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

SU DO KU

			4		5		
		5	8	6			2 9
2	1	3		9	7	8	4
8			3				5
		2			7		
	5			4			3
	8	9	7	3		4	1 2
1	2			4	8	6	
		4			6		

MEDIUM

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3x3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

Each sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing.

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

3	5	9	7	2	1	4	6	8
6	1	4	5	3	8	7	9	2
2	8	7	9	6	4	1	3	5
9	4	8	6	5	7	2	1	3
7	2	1	3	8	9	6	5	4
5	3	6	4	1	2	9	8	7
8	6	2	1	7	5	3	4	9
1	9	5	2	4	3	8	7	6
4	7	3	8	9	6	5	2	1

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles. One letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TOMOT
HXSIT
BILFUA
AARMCE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Look! My Springtime shirt still fits! Really, honey? It barely fits you when you bought it.



Yesterday's Jumbles: DUNCE KNACK PODIUM FACTOR
Answer: The circle had been sick for a while but was happy to be — UP AND AROUND

CROSS WORD



ACROSS

- Show initiative and come in force (10)
- Acute embarrassment in North African port (5)
- Glance shows a number in fault (7)
- It's disturbing having the wrong spirit in work (7)
- Alan's wrong to be nosy (5)
- He's not treated in a fair way (6)
- My sets are arranged methodically (6)
- Do impressive work as a huntsman? (5)
- Make the most of an adventure (7)
- Sign of a poisonous insect (7)
- Drops many tears (5)
- Excellent start at school? (5-5)

DOWN

- Turn one out though it's free of charge (7)
- Are up to providing inspiration for poets (5)
- Gobarefoot in water or by canoe (6)
- Childhood in one's imagination (7)
- Gets level yet nothing is lost (5)
- Deadlocks with old friends (10)
- Perform a priceless operation? (3,3,4)
- It may go under or over rails (7)
- It's crop is adapted for hot regions (7)
- Sharp answer about a wrong (6)
- A fool disposed to be distant (5)
- Plead for one trodden underfoot (5)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Flight, 4 Piffle, 9 Stealth, 10 Yeann, 11 Inlay, 12 Rallies, 13 Mountaineer, 18 Chablis, 20 Ensur, 22 Ruing, 23 Enlarge, 24 Donate, 25 Esther.
Down: 1 Fossil, 2 Ideal, 3 Halcyon, 5 Idyl, 6 Fragile, 7 Ernest, 8 Sharp answer, 14 Oraton, 15 Needles, 16 Scared, 17 Meteo, 19 Legit, 21 Sarah.

Fight Covid with sound strategy, ramp up facilities, Congress MLAs to govt

Suggest increase in random testing, curbs on travel, coordination among ministers

RAMU PATIL @Bengaluru

AS the number of Covid-19 cases and deaths continues to surge, especially in Bengaluru, opposition Congress legislators have expressed concern over the situation getting out of hand, and suggested that the government take urgent measures to ramp up facilities before the situation worsens. "It is not criticism, as a system we have failed," said former Health Minister KR Ramesh Kumar, expressing anguish over patients not getting treatment, and some private hospitals charging exorbitant rates.

According to him, facilities must be created at the ward level by utilizing all available resources, including private establishments, to conduct tests extensively. He called for stern action, including registering criminal cases against private hospitals, if they charge exorbitantly for treating Covid patients. "If need be, suspend other programmes that can wait, divert resources to fight the pandemic," he said.

Former Home Minister and MLA from Bengaluru Ramalinga Reddy said testing needs to be increased as the number of people infected could be much higher than that reported. Reddy said the



Ambulances parked outside a fever clinic in Bengaluru on Friday | MEGHANA SASTRY

government must enforce the lockdown more strictly, and create Covid Care Centres and treatment facilities on the outskirts of the city. "Looks like we have reached the stage of community spread in Bengaluru, it's time to do more random tests and also create facilities to cope with the situation," he added.

Reddy's former cabinet colleague and MLA Dinesh Gundu Rao said the government committed a big mistake by allowing people to travel all over the state from Bengaluru, at a time when the numbers in the capital were increasing. The government, he said,

OPPOSITION SUGGESTS

- 1 Ramp up testing, do more random tests
- 2 Equip Covid Care Centres with high-flow oxygen beds as patients may not get beds in hospital
- 3 Restrict inter-district travel, especially from Bengaluru
- 4 Ensure there is no shortage of drugs
- 5 Recruit BDS, BAMS, BHMS doctors on contract, conduct orientation programmes and deploy them in hospitals to overcome staff shortage
- 6 Book criminal cases against private hospitals charging exorbitantly
- 7 Create testing and treatment facilities at ward level
- 8 Warn those creating fear psychosis

must restrict inter-district travel to contain the spread of the virus. "They must ramp up testing, increase the number of beds with high-flow oxygen supply, ICU and ventilators. Covid Care Centres must also have beds with oxygen supply, as with the number of positive cases increasing, patients may not get beds in hospitals," he said.

Urgent measures are needed to ensure that no one, be it Covid patients or others requiring hospitalisation, has to suffer, he said, referring to instances of people dying without getting treatment. Better coordination among ministers and a well-coordinated approach is required at this point in time, and not each minister working independently, which unfortunately seems to be the approach now, he added.

"In public life, politics and parliamentary democracy, there is nothing like power, it is only responsibility. If I think I've got power, then I am committing treachery on my people. I should have the humility to say I will discharge my responsibility with utmost sincerity," Ramesh Kumar added.

The week-long lockdown in force in Bengaluru needs to be enforced strictly, said former minister and MLA Eshwar Khandre.

49-yr-old convicted for assaulting minor girl

MG CHETAN @Bengaluru

A city court has convicted a 49-year-old man of sexually assaulting a minor, and sentenced him to five years of rigorous imprisonment.

Ganjendra sexually assaulted the girl, who was his neighbour, on February 5, 2018, when she was returning home from tuition classes. Konanakunte police submitted a chargesheet against Ganjendra, seeking conviction under the POCSO Act and Sections of the IPC.

The prosecution furnished medical evidence and witness statements to prove that Ganjendra assaulted the minor, who was a Class 3 student and an eight-year-old then.

The defence submitted that the charges had been fabricated as the minor's family had falsely implicated him in a land dispute. The defence also submitted that Ganjendra could not have committed any offence against the minor as she was like his child, requesting the court to show leniency.

However, after taking the survivor's account into consideration, corroborated by medical evidence, the 53rd Additional City Civil and Sessions Special Court pronounced him guilty.

While awarding the sentence, Judge SH Pushpanjali Devi observed, "If the Court considers these type of offences committed against the minor child in a lighter view, it will definitely give the wrong signal to society."

The court sentenced him to five years of RI for offences under the POCSO Act, one year simple imprisonment (SI) for wrongful confinement, and three years SI for outraging the modesty of a woman. The court also ordered that the survivor be paid a compensation of Rs 3 lakh.

Assam floods: Gowda appeals to PM Modi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

Former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda on Friday appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to step-up relief efforts in flood-hit Assam. In a statement on Friday, the JDS patriarch said that the flood-ravaged State needed the PM's urgent attention. The statement in support of Assam comes at a time the Rajasthan political crisis and Covid-19 crisis have

captured the news headlines of the country.

"It is unfortunate that the people of Assam have to battle the floods, the deaths and displacement caused by them when the Covid-19 pandemic is raging across the country. They are fighting on two fronts," Deve Gowda said. He appealed to the Central Government to pay urgent attention to the situation in Assam and offer maximum assistance to the

State government. Deeming the situation deeply disturbing, Deve Gowda highlighted the extent of damage caused, including the death of 60 people.

"The people of Assam, and the people of North East in general, have blessed me and showered a lot of affection when I was Prime Minister, and later too. They will be in my prayers," he said adding that he would visit the State once the pandemic abates.



Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa inaugurates the Nano Corona Air Purifier-Cum-Steriliser at his official residence Krishna in Bengaluru on Friday

CM LAUNCHES PURIFIER FOR AIRBORNE VIRUSES

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

A city-based start-up, incubated by Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Nutan Labs has developed Nano Corona Air Purifier Cum Steriliser which purifies indoor air by killing Covid-19 virus and other pollutants. CM B S Yediyurappa, while launching the product at his home office 'Krishna', said: "This kind of technology will be useful to help combat the virus. In a first, we are using nano-material in liquid form for absorption of pollutant gases and pathogens."

The product uses metal nano particles with coated reusable membranes and liquid nanofluids. "In the first stage of nano filtration, we have coated noble metal nanoparticles of 10-20 na-

nometre each on sandwiched membranes or non-woven fibres. The nanoparticles eliminate the virus by disrupting the outer coating and damaging the genetic material (of 30-140 nanometre each) and ruptures it," said Nutan H S, CEO, Nutan Labs.

Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences & Research permitted the start-up to conduct real-time studies with COVID19 positive patients at the hospital's isolation wards. It is claimed that the instrument purifies, sterilises and recirculates clean and sterile air in a rapid way without using much energy.

Recently 'Nutan Labs' got the 'Elevate Call 2 Award' by Start-up Karnataka, Dept of IT, BT, Science and technology, Government of Karnataka.

under the Disaster Management Act and SOP issued by the State and Central governments.

"We hope and trust that all Disaster Management Authorities will function under the Disaster Management Act," the bench said.

The bench was hearing pleas filed by activist Geetha Misra and by Letzkit Foundation, who drew the court's attention to a wedding organised by for-

mer minister P T Parameshwar Naik in Ballari on June 15, during which attendees, including Health Minister B Sriramulu, were seen violating lockdown norms.

The petitioners submitted photographs showing numerous violations and the presence of political leaders. Throwing caution to the wind, a protest rally was held by KPCC chief D K Shivakumar on June 29, the petitioner said.

Clarify stance on use of Aarogya Setu app: Bench

Bengaluru: The high court on Friday asked the Centre to respond to a PIL filed by Anivar A Aravind, a city resident, challenging the norm that government employees and those who visit public offices must download the Aarogya Setu app compulsorily. Based on the petition, the court also asked the BMRL to respond whether using the app should be made compulsory for passengers travelling in Metro, once the service resumes. **ENS**

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client namely SHASHIDHARA G, aged about 40 years, S/o Late M. Ganganna, residing at No.3, "Santhi Nivas", 1st Cross, 2nd Main, KSR Layout, Devarachikkanahalli, Bengaluru, has lost the Original registered Sale deed dated 02-02-2006, vide document No. BAS-1-14726/2005-2006, at Book-1, which is stored in CD No. BASD-212, at running pages No. 1 to 9, registered in the office of Senior Sub Registrar, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru in respect of residential property bearing Vacant Site No.9, in Private Layout called as "SREE ENCLAVE" formed in Converted Sy.No. 6/1, Bommanahalli City, Municipal Council Katha No.3, Situated at Nyanappanahalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru.

Notice is hereby given to all the general public that whoever finds the above mentioned Original document, may kindly inform/contact the undersigned within 07 days of publication of this notice. After the said period, my client will treat the above said Original document as lost permanently and will take further steps in accordance with law as he deem fit.

The publication is made based on the complaint/lost report ref No.087879/2020, dated 15-07-2020 filed before the Bengaluru City Police.

PR. Dhananjaya, Advocate,
120, 2nd A Main Road, Bhyraveswara Nagar, Laggara, Bengaluru-58.
Mobile No: 92421 64578

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the public at large that, my clients, Sri. Dr. Sadananda S/o. Late Channabasappa & Sri. Shivayya Hippargi S/o. Siddaramappa Hippargi, both are residing in the house at No. 177, 1st Cross, 2nd Main, Rajeev Gandhi Nagar, Bengaluru-96, intend to purchase the schedule land property mentioned hereunder, from its present owners Sri. Syed Jamil Pasha & Syed Jamier Pasha S/o. Late, Syed Gulam Hussain & Smt. Shreen Taj W/o Late. Syed Wazeer, Smt. Mutthari Taj W/o Late. Syed Wazeer & children, residing at No.34, 3rd Cross, Ummarbagh Layout, JP Nagar, Near Tagwa Masjid, Bengaluru-78. Hence, the general public are hereby informed that, in the event of any person/organization/ firm having any objection for Sale of the schedule land property, do kindly write to the undersigned within 7 days from the date of this notice with supportive documents / proof, failing which my client will proceed to complete the Sale transaction, objection received thereafter is not binding upon my client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the land property bearing old Survey No.47, New No.47/1 & 47/2, measuring 7 Acres, Motagondanahalli Grama, Magadi Taluk, Solur Hobli, Ramanagara District, bounded on:
East by: land property of Sarvamangala, West by: Sarkari Bunde, North by: Private land property, North by: land property of Revanasiddappa.

B.G. THAMMAIAH, Advocate
Office at No. 172/A, 8th Main, 4th Block, Rajinagara, Bengaluru-10.
Mobile No. 9845661767, 9620616699

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE
SIGNAL & TELECOMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT (CONSTRUCTION)

For and on behalf of the President of India Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer (C) North Western Railway, Jaipur invites E-Tenders against tender no. **S&T/RA (NWR/SC/Goods/ST-615991201)** (Single packet system) closing date 05.08.2020 15:00. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available ON IREPS portal LIKE net banking, Debit card, Credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. 1. Name of work with its location : Design, manufacture, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of Microprocessor based Electronic Interlocking (EI) system in "Hot Stand By Mode" at Mirzapur Bachhod for execution of indoor and outdoor Signalling work which includes excavation of trench, laying of cables, casting of foundations of MACLS Signals & apparatus cases, erection/ installation of MACLS signals, fixing & wiring of track circuits and point machines, centralized operation of points & signals etc. in connection with provision of Two additional Good Line in RPC Section of Jaipur division on North Western Railway. 2. Approximate cost of the work : Rs. 61673163.69, 3. Earnest money (Rs.) : Rs. 458400 (Online payment), 4. Date & Time for submission up to on www.ireps.gov.in : 05.08.2020 up to 15:00 Hrs. 5. Website particulars and notice board location : www.ireps.gov.in and Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer (Const.), office, Opposite Railway Hospital, Hasanpura Road, Jaipur-302006. 659-AJ/20

Follow us at [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/NWRRailways) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/NWRRailways) [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/NWRRailways) [TikTok](https://www.tiktok.com/NWRRailways)

AP HIGH GRADE STEELS LTD.
10th Floor, APIIC Towers, Mangalagiri, Guntur Dist. AP - 522503
NIT No: 03/DIR/APHSL/Engg./Consultancy/2020-21 Dated 17.07.2020
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR SELECTION OF TECHNOLOGY CONSULTANT
APHSL through this RFP intends to invite proposals from well qualified and well reputed Consultants for Providing Technology Consultancy Services to support APHSL in setting-up of an Integrated Steel Plant at YSR Kadapa District, A.P.
The RFP document can be downloaded from Website <http://www.aphighgrade-steels.com/tenders.php> from 18-Jul-2020 for further details may contact **Mr. Balaram Bandi, Director-Projects, Mob No: +91 99490 06631** Sd/-
Managing Director, APHSL

GOODWILL CHRISTIAN COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
(CSI Karnataka Central Diocese)
AFFILIATED TO BENGALURU NORTH UNIVERSITY
ADMISSIONS OPEN - 2020-21 (DIRECT AND ONLINE)
COURSES OFFERED
BBA B.Com BCA
B.Sc B.A
10, Promenade Road, Frazer Town, Bengaluru - 560 005. Ph: 080-25567177 / 41100422.
E-mail: goodwillchristiancollege@gmail.com, Website: www.goodwillchristiancollege.com

National Urban Health Mission
Bengaluru City Health & Family Welfare Society
BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Chief Health Officer (PH), Annex Building-2
BBMP Head Office, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 02
No.: CPMO/NUHM/PR/89/2020-21 Date: 17-07-2020
NOTIFICATION
In the view of COVID-19 outbreak Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike intends to conduct walk-in process for Swab Collector posts for 06 months on contractual basis.

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Educational Qualification	Consolidated Pay	No of Posts	Date and time of Interview & Time
1	Swab Collector	Diploma in Lab Technology Registered in Karnataka Para Medical Board OR B.Sc. in Biology or any Biological Science OR Any Science Graduate	Rs. 14,000/-	50	19.07.2020 at Naukarara Bhavana, BBMP, Head Office. 10.00 AM to 4.00 PM

Eligibility Criteria: 1) Age Limit: On the last date of notification, candidates should have attained the age of 18 years and shall not exceed the age 50 years. 2) The candidates should have the knowledge of Kannada (to write, speak and read).
The eligible candidates are requested to come with all relevant original and photo copy of documents to walk in Process on the above mentioned place, date and time. Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike reserves the right to increase or reduce the number of posts. All the posts are on contractual basis for 06 months. For other information please contact the office of CPMU, 3rd floor, BBMP Head Office, NR Square, Bangalore-560002, Phone: 080-22110445 and visit BBMP website www.bbmp.gov.in.
Note: As per the above Notification if required number of candidates do not apply for the above mentioned post or if the post are vacant then based on the Roll Out Advertisement the vacant post shall be filled every Monday from 10.00 AM to 1.00 PM. Applications will be issued in CPMU Office.
Sd/- Chief Health Officer & Member Secretary,
Bengaluru City Health & Family Welfare Society, BBMP
"Pay development charges, help to develop Bengaluru"

Education. Goals. And game changing decisions.
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Every Monday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

The Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Limited
H.O. No.2, Pampamahakavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru - 560 018.
PUBLIC AUCTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Sri T.Gangesh, S/o late S.T.Thimmarayappa, R/a New No.1, Old No.24, Muneshwara Temple Road, Audugodi, Bengaluru-560030, The debt due to Bank as on 10.07.2020 of Rs.53,88,844/- + Interest & miscellaneous expenses. Auction sale under the securitization and reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforce of Security Interest Act 2002 Section 13(4) of the Immovable properties mortgaged to The Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Ltd., is brought to Sale under "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" on 18.08.2020, Tuesday at 11.00 am.
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the Immovable Property bearing New No.1, Old No.24, Muneshwara Temple Road, Audugodi, BBMP, PID No.67-27-24, Ward No.67, Bangalore-30, measuring East to West: 41 Feet and North to South: 30.5 Feet in all totally measuring 1250.5 Sq.Ft., and bounded on the East by: Road, West by: Road, North by: Shetti Gowda's House & South by: Ankappa's Property.
TERMS AND CONDITIONS
(1) The public auction will be conducted in the premises of the Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Ltd., Head Office No.2, Pampamahakavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru-560018.
(2) For participation in the auction the intending bidders have to deposit an amount equivalent to 10% of the Reserve price of the property i.e., is Rs.13,32,131/- being cautioned deposit. The cautioned deposit shall be forfeited by the bank without any prior notice, if the successful bidder fails to adhere to the terms of sale, time and commits default in any manner.
(3) The successful bidder should deposit 25% of the bid amount on the same day at the time of sale in cash/DD to the GMLB Ltd. and the balance within 15 days from the date of sale.
(4) The successful bidders shall bear all expenses like stamp duty, Registration fee etc., for getting the sale certificate Registered in his/her favour.
(5) The authorized officer shall have powers to accept or reject bids or postpone/cancel the auction without assigning any reasons thereof.
(6) For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending bidder may contact the undersigned at the GMLB Ltd., or through Telephone, they are at liberty to make their own assessment/enquiry about the property. Balance of tax and others charges has to be borne by purchaser.
Sd/-
Authorised Officer,
The Grain Merchants' Co Operative Bank Ltd.,
26677552, 26506279

Deal with all violators, including politicians, sternly: HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE Karnataka High Court on Friday took serious exception to politicians violating lockdown norms and directed the State government to deal sternly with all violators regardless of how influential they may be.

A division bench of Chief Justice Abhay Shreenivas Oka and Justice M Nagaprasanna also directed the State to submit a response by July 24 and file a summary report on the action taken



IN THE HC

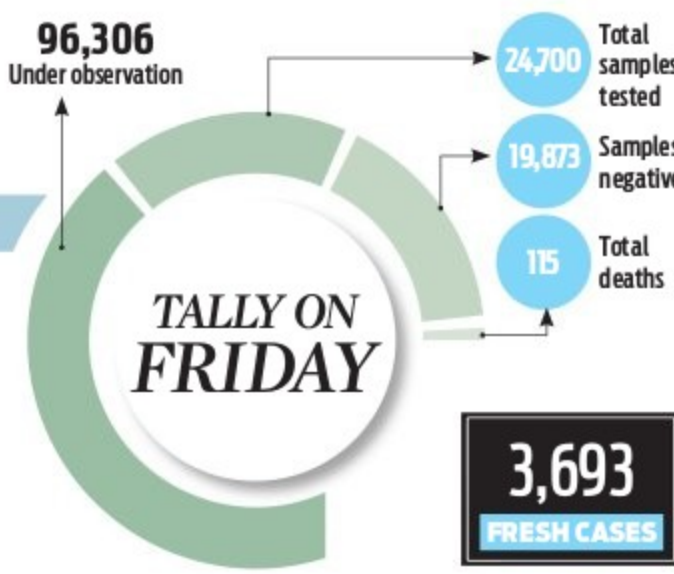


The highest single-day spike of 311 fresh coronavirus cases was reported in Dakshina Kannada on Friday, taking the total to 3,074. Eight deaths were also reported on Friday

1,028
NEW
RECOVERIES
20,757
TOTAL
RECOVERED

HELPLINES
080-46848600
080-66692000

104
Arogya
Sahayavani will
function too



CONFIRMED CASES		TOTAL
1,238	VUAYAPURA	55,115
616	BAGALKOT	1,260
1,731	DHARWAD	2,592
789	BELAGAVI	1,539
900	UTTARA KANNADA	948
389	HAVERI	473
689	DAVANAGERE	419
615	SHIVAMOGGA	2,200
1,980	UDUPI	178
2,797	DAKSHINA KANNADA	600
249	KODAGU	598
228	CHIKKAMAGALURU	426
791	HASSAN	27,969
	MYSURU	1,413
	CHAMARAJANAGAR	410
	RAMANAGARA	820
	MANDYA	
	BENGALURU	

Sriramulu's Soudha office sealed after 3 staffers test +ve

Kumara Krupa Guesthouse partially closed

Kumara Krupa Guesthouse has been partially closed after 13 of its staff tested positive. Although many of them are asymptomatic, they have been asked to home quarantine. About 25 traditionally decorated rooms in the old wing have been sanitised and closed but the newer wing is functioning. One wing was recently set aside for VVIP Covid patients such as government officers and elected representatives. **ENS**

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

HEALTH Minister B Sriramulu's office was sealed on Friday, after tests revealed that three of his staff members – a driver and two office assistants – tested positive. It is suspected that two other assistants, Nitesh and Sujit, tested positive early on, and set off the Covid infection among others in the office. They have not been seen in the office for the past few days. It is said that Nitesh left for Ayanur, in Shivamogga, after he started showing symptoms, and Sujit also moved out and is suspected to be the early spreader. Sriramulu, meanwhile, was in Ballari, participating in public functions. Asked about the virus spread in his office, he denied that anyone had tested positive. About 50 of his staffers were tested at K C General Hospital in Malleswaram, and so were those at his Devanahalli residence. Meanwhile, health officials also sanitised political secretary S R Vishwanath's office, because it adjoins Sriramulu's chamber, and the staff was asked to remain in quarantine. In Vidhana Soudha police station, another policeman tested positive. After a number of staffers tested positive, the assembly secretariat continues to be sealed, with only skeletal staff carrying out essential duties.

BHASKAR RAO IN HOME QUARANTINE AFTER DRIVER TESTS POSITIVE

After his driver tested Covid positive, Bengaluru Police Commissioner Bhaskar Rao has been home quarantined for four days. The police said the staff at the police commissioner's office are tested frequently and the result of one of the two official car drivers of the police commissioner returned to be positive on Thursday. Other primary contacts have been quarantined too. **ENS**



Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa during a meeting with zonal in-charge ministers at Vidhana Soudha on Friday | EXPRESS

CM TO SEEK MORE BEDS FROM PVT MED COLLEGES

Meeting today, BSY to ask for suggestions on fighting Covid better

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

AS the number of Covid cases are rising, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa has called a meeting with private medical colleges and hospitals on Saturday to discuss allocating more beds to fight the pandemic. If all hospitals linked to medical colleges can set aside facilities for Covid-19, the city alone will have over 3,500 additional beds. The meeting has been convened at the CM's official residence Krishna at 4 pm and Yediyurappa is going to seek suggestions and strategies to fight covid cases better, government sources said. The meeting will also be attended by the team of eight

ministers, who have been assigned the task of dealing with the crisis in the city. The ministers were already under pressure to increase the number of beds in the city as there have been many complaints of patients not being admitted in government and private hospitals. Dr Sudarshan Ballal, Chairman, Manipal Hospitals, and a member of the Consultative Group to fight Covid said, "These medical college and hospitals can be used as back-up facilities, considering they have a large capacity and are reasonably staffed. They can also be used as Covid Care Centres should a need arise." He said, "Using some smaller hospitals too is a good strategy as the entire

unit can be converted into a Covid-only facility. This was suggested earlier." Already, Rajarajeshwari Medical College and Hospital has been catering to Covid patients from Ramanagara, while Ambedkar Medical College in the city too has been admitting corona patients. Together they have around 400 beds. Former minister M R Seetharam from M S Ramaiah College Hospital told TNIE, "We have already offered the government 200 beds and we are willing to offer 100 more exclusively for Covid." Saturday's meeting is likely to be attended by private medical college representatives only from the city and not surrounding areas.

VIRUS TARGETS CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM TOO?

A research published in The Laryngoscope has noted that anxiety and depressed mood indicated signs that SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid 19, could be affecting the central nervous system too

Researchers from the University of Cincinnati, US, say anxiety and depression were most closely associated with loss of smell and taste, that the disease shows in some patients



The researchers conducted a cross-sectional telephone questionnaire study examining symptoms in 114 patients diagnosed with Covid-19 over six weeks

47.4 % of the participants reported several days of depressed mood in a week. A fifth of them reported depressed mood nearly every day

The scientists assessed severity of the loss of smell or taste, nasal obstruction, excessive mucus production, fever, cough and shortness of breath among patients suffering from Covid-19



However, the researchers also cautioned that there may not be any causal link between the disruption of the sense of smell/taste in Covid-19 and the psychological symptoms



44.7 % of the participants expressed mild anxiety, while 10.5 per cent reported severe anxiety

"Our study should be interpreted within the context of its limitations, the most conspicuous of which is that we cannot show any direct causal link between chemosensory dysfunction in Covid-19 and emotional disturbance," says co-author of the study Ahmad Sedaghat from the University of Cincinnati, US

VIDEO GOES VIRAL

Belagavi man writhes in pain before dying in hospital

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Belagavi

AN elderly man, allegedly unable to bear the excruciating pain inflicted by Covid-19, died at the Covid ward in Belagavi Institute of Medical Sciences (BIMS) on Friday. A video of the man writhing in pain before his death went viral on social media sites. Sources said that the 65-year-old resident from Athani taluk was admitted to BIMS after he tested positive sometime ago.

The video shows him struggling with pain, possibly in the stomach, on the hospital bed.

The video is likely to have been shot by another patient at the ward, exposing the condition of Covid wards at BIMS, where the number of patients has swelled over the last few days. The video clip evoked a sharp response from netizens. Hospital authorities were not available for comment on the condition of the hospital.

Of the 14 districts in Belagavi, Athani had registered the highest number of Covid cases, forcing the district administration to impose a week-long lockdown in the taluk since July 15.

Belagavi district registered an alarming spike in cases on Friday with 95 testing positive, taking the tally to 789. Apart from Athani taluk, the government has also announced lockdown in Gokak, Mudalgi, Kagwad and Nipani taluks for a week. All the patients testing positive in the district are being admitted to BIMS.

Another bleak milestone, 115 dead

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE state recorded 115 Covid-19 deaths on Friday, which is the highest for a single day, and the toll went up to 1,147, taking the fatality rate 2.05%. Karnataka also stood second among states in the death count, with only Maharashtra registering a higher number at 257 deaths.

Bengaluru recorded 75 deaths and most of them were SARI and ILI cases. The mortality rate in the city went up to 2.04%, just 0.1% lesser than the state's figures.

The state also crossed the 55,000-mark in positive cases with 3,693 new cases. The tally is at 55,115, with active cases at 33,205.

The state also tested 24,700 samples, the highest for a day. Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar said, "The



A worker sanitises the BBMP Head Office in Bengaluru on Friday | PANDARINATH B

WHO recommends 140 tests/day/million population. Karnataka is conducting 297 tests/day/million and is among top 10 states/UTs conducting 140 tests or more. So far, we have conducted more than 9.25 lakh tests and all of them are RT-PCR that provide accurate results."

Of the 3,693 cases, Bengaluru Urban was on top of the list with 2,208 cases. Dharwad reported 157 cases, Ballari 133,

Vijayapura 118, Belagavi 95, Mysuru 93, Kalaburgi 89, Udupi 80, Uttara Kannada 75, Bidar 69, Gadag 59, Haveri 58, Kolar 51, Dakshina Kannada 39, Tumakuru 36, Raichur and Bengaluru Rural 33 each, Davanagere and Chikkaballapura 31 each, Koppal 30, Bagalkot 29, Chikkamagaluru 28, Chitradurga 24, Mandya 22, Hassan 21, Ramanagara 14, Kodagu 13, Shivamogga and Chamrajnagar 10 each, and Yadgir four

Corporators, docs, must be part of booth-level panels: B'luru in-charge

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

HEALTH officials, doctors, corporators and retired government officials should be part of booth-level Covid-19 committees to identify and help patients and citizens, said L K Ateek, in charge of forming such committees in the city.

Speaking to volunteers, citizens and officials through video-conferencing on Friday as part of the BBMP ward committee training, he said that these committees are essential to tackle cases at ward and booth levels. They should hold meetings every Monday to take stock of the situation, revise contingency plans, decide the weekly course of action, inform the government of requirements and present progress reports.

He said that Bengaluru earlier topped the list in early contact training, but now it is lagging. It is the job of booth-level committees to trace contacts and handle Covid19 patients. It is about time such committees were set up, he added. These committees work sim-



Barricades placed at a sealed area in Ulsoor, Bengaluru, on Friday | PANDARINATH B

ilarly to election booths, and the city has 8,154 such booths. "The committees should create a database of all citizens within their jurisdiction and keep copies of people's health cards. They should not just know how many senior citizens or people with comorbidities live in the booths, but also who they are. They should keep track of all those who are ill, especially with complaints of cold and fever," he said.

"They should visit them and if need be, take them to fever clinics for testing. Committee members should distribute their contact numbers among citizens, who can contact them

in case of an emergency," he added.

Committees should have members from different age groups and sections of society so that every citizen can be reached out to. They should work towards setting up a Covid Care Centre in each ward. A weekly, if not daily, update of the health status should be given to him, the BBMP Commissioner and war room, Ateek said.

Every ward will have a dedicated ambulance and a primary health centre, ward and booth-level helpline numbers and a list of fever clinics. The information pamphlets will be distributed to all, he added.

THE MORE THE BETTER

HAL sets up 160-bed Covid Care Centre, hands it over to Palike

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

SENSING the urgency to control Covid-19, HAL has converted its Ghatage Convention Centre on Old Airport Road into a Covid Care Centre (CCC) and handed it over to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) on Friday.

The facility that has 160 beds with other supporting infrastructure like toilets, bathrooms, etc. was created in 16 days, said HAL Chairman and Managing Director R Madhavan. Initially, the facility will be used to treat asymptomatic Covid-posi-

tive patients, said Alok Verma, HAL Director for human resources.

A memorandum of understanding was signed between Ch Venkateswara Rao, GM (Corporate Social Responsibility), HAL, and R Venkatachalapathy, Joint Commissioner, Mahadevapura Zone, BBMP, in the presence of senior government and HAL officials.

Assigning doctors and paramedical staff and running of the facility will be BBMP's responsibility. The company has distributed PPE, masks, besides supporting migrant labourers by providing them food and shelter.

BBMP flags off 115 vehicles with rapid antigen testing kits

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

BBMP Commissioner BH Anil Kumar and Mayor M Goutham Kumar on Friday flagged off 115 vehicles that carry rapid antigen kits to test vulnerable citizens across Bengaluru.

On the sidelines of the event, Anil Kumar said that each vehicle will house a health official, technician and an assistant. They will identify people with ILI, SARI and the vulnerable, and test them. Also, if re-



115 vehicles carrying rapid antigen kits were flagged off in Bengaluru on Friday | EXPRESS

quired, the team will shift people to the nearest hospital or Covid Care Centre.

A total of 132 vehicles have been divided into batches, based on the population and number of wards in each zone.

In the first phase on Friday, 115 vehicles were flagged off. They will ply to slums, thickly populated areas, city outskirts, containment zones, places where many pourakarmikas are housed and also where many

vulnerable people reside.

The commissioner said the vehicles are needed as many people are not coming forward for testing, test results are piling up and to produce immediate results. He said that as compared to RTPCR, where test reports take two to three days, the result here is known within a couple of hours.

The role of staffers will also be to help identify and trace contacts and keep war rooms informed of the cases and developments.

Double trouble: Indigo's seat booking option earns flak from public

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

The announcement made by IndiGo airlines on Friday stating that a passenger is allowed to book two tickets in one's name to maintain social distance with their co-passenger, has earned it much ridicule and ire on social media. The middle seat can be booked at 75% of the actual ticket cost from July 25.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had earlier proposed that the middle seat in airlines would be left vacant to ensure social distancing and thereby reduce the risk of contracting Covid-19. The proposal was retracted by DGCA before it was implemented stating that airlines felt it would not be financially viable to operate with one-third of seats empty.

The airline in its official statement made public today claimed that it had received requests from the public and was making the ₹6E Double Seat' service available. However, the decision did not welcome any excitement or interest among the public. Rather, it appeared to be counter productive as seen by the caustic responses it generated on social media.

Mohammed Nadim, a resident of Saudi Arabia, took to Twitter, saying: "Wow new scheme. Double seat, pay double for one... no need 2 seats for one person. People are not crazy. Don't make fool. Give back money for ticket cancellations, no need of a credit shell. (sic)"

A regular flyer from Bengaluru, Krithika N, told TNIE, "The airline is passing on the responsibility of ensuring safety on its customer. We need to pay through our nose and book two tickets to fly safely on their airline. How cool!"

Sanjay Kumar, Chief Strategy & Revenue Officer, IndiGo said, "Even though air travel is the safest mode of travel at this point, we understand the customers' need for safety. We were receiving such requests and are happy to introduce the option to book two seats for a single passenger to ensure additional safety. 6E double seat will provide a stress-free flying experience to our customers."



CPM takes Pinarayi CMO to task for officials' lapses

Kerala party secretary offers full support to Vijayan and Left govt

Missing gunman of former UAE attack found injured

Former UAE Consulate admin attaché Rashed Khamis Ali Musalgr Alshemeli's gunman, who was reported missing from the house of his wife at Anayara on Thursday night, was found in a semi-unconscious state on Friday noon with his wrist sliced. S R Jayagosh, attached with the Armed Reserve (AR) Camp, was serving UAE Consul-General Jamal Hussain Al Sabi. After the consul-general returned to the UAE, he served as Alshemeli's gunman.

Swapna appointed on Sivasankar's recommendation

The suspension order of M Sivasankar, former IT secretary, has revealed that he had played a pivotal role in appointing Swapna Suresh as Operations Manager/Junior Consultant in the Space Park project under Kerala State Information Technology Infrastructure Ltd (KSITIL).



Customs officials raid a jewellery store in Kozhikode, Kerala on Friday, in connection with the gold smuggling case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @TPuram

SQUIRMING under the negative glare of the gold smuggling case, the ruling CPM's leadership in Kerala on Friday acknowledged that it has tarnished the Left government's image. The party is pointing fingers at the Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's Office for the bureaucratic lapses.

However, the CPM secretariat offered full support to Vijayan and the Left government.

"Bureaucrats cannot hover above the government. That won't be allowed," said CPM state secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan, while briefing the media on the decisions taken at its meeting.

The CPM feels that there's an urgent need to monitor the officials who run ministers' offices, including that of the CM.

It has been decided to take steps to ensure that actions taken by the bu-

reaucrats do not lead to political setbacks for the government. Termining the smuggling row a learning curve, Balakrishnan pointed out that everyone should be vigilant from now on.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Vijayan explained his stance saying he completely trusted his former secretary M Sivasankar since he was an efficient officer based on his previous record.

He, however, assured his party colleagues that there need not be any concerns over the smuggling case per se. If the investigation moves in the right direction, it could even lead to a few parties in the Opposition, he said.

Though the party admitted lapses on the part of the CMO, it is of the view that the CM and his office have no role in the scam. "Neither the CM nor the CMO has any role in the issue. An officer with CMO was found to have relations with one of the accused," Balakrishnan said.

Demand to postpone CET gets louder

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru / Mysuru

WITH just a few days left for the Karnataka - Common Entrance Test (CET), the demand to postpone the examination is getting louder. The K-CET is scheduled to be held on July 30 and 31.

More than 52,000 students across Karnataka took to Twitter to protest against the decision. With the hashtag #postponecet2020, the tweets topped the all-India Twitter trend list.

According to a survey report by All India Democratic Students Organisation (AIDSO), over 96.9% of PU students across the state want the CET to be rescheduled. AIDSO members said that of the total 4,557 responses they received, 96.9% sought postponement of the test.

The members said that with a spike in Covid-19 cases across the state, it's unscientific to hold the test, putting thousands of students' lives at risk, and that they would protest to bring this to the notice of state officials.

Meanwhile, the demand to cancel final-year UG, PG and engineering course exams also gained momentum and on Friday, a state-wide mass e-mail

campaign, demanding cancellation of the exams, was started by AIDSO. The students also demanded that the state government reimburse the examination fee collected by universities.

"Following the state government's decision and UGC guidelines to conduct online exams, we carried out a survey of students pursuing final-year degree exams where over 3,839 engineering students said they are not ready to face the exam in August, while 5,581 degree students said they are not ready to appear for exams, considering the situation. Meanwhile, 86.6% of students have said they are not ready to even attend classes from August," said AIDSO Mysuru district committee president Akash Kumar B N.

PU, degree, postgraduate and engineering students from across Karnataka participated in the state-wide 'All Karnataka Protest Day' in 30 districts.

While in several states, Covid-19 cases are still on the rise, the UGC has warned universities that if they fail to conduct examinations, action will be taken against them.

Pourakarmikas meet BBMP chief, seek safety measures

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

A delegation of pourakarmikas met BBMP Commissioner B H Anil Kumar on Friday, demanding protective equipment and hygiene measures as they are at higher risk of contracting Covid-19. This comes a day after a 25-year-old pourakarmika succumbed to Covid after being denied medical care. She is the fifth sanitation worker to die of the disease. Pourakarmikas staged protests in several parts of the city on Friday. They were joined by citizen groups in holding candle light vigils near their homes that evening.

Anil Kumar said the BBMP was formulating measures to protect the health of sanitation workers. These include checking workers' temperature at mustering centres or before they board the bus that would take them to their designated work areas. BBMP will create Covid centres for pourakarmikas if they contract the disease. They will also be included under a Central scheme under which families of frontline workers who succumb to Covid-19 are given Rs 50 lakh as compensation.

'Use of Care Centres, home isolation should be popularised'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Apart from the non-availability of AYUSH doctors and ASHA workers, Dr Mysore said, "About 20-30% of healthcare staff are getting infected, which is worrying. Even after they recover, they do not wish to resume work. All this threatens the quality of care and distracts us from managing the pandemic."

At present, 50% of beds in private hospitals must be reserved for patients. "We are seeing 2,000-odd cases a day in Bengaluru. If this increases to 5,000, of which 20-30% require hospitalisation, we will not have enough beds," said Dr Prasanna H M, president-elect, Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes Associations. "We are working with 50%

staff. As cases rise, 10% could contract the virus and another 10% may just quit. We've been asking the government to recall final-year MBBS, nursing and pharmacy students, MSC, BSc graduates, and train them," he said.

He said medicos currently working will be quarantined after two weeks, creating a staff crunch. The Rajiv Gan-

dhi University of Health Sciences has a database of students who could be recalled for Covid duties, he said.

Use of Covid Care Centres and home isolation are not being popularised, says Dr M K Sudarshan, chairman of the Covid-19 technical advisory committee to the State Government. "We are looking at a crisis with bed shortage in the

future with rising cases. To counter this, CCCs and home isolation must be popularised. People are running helter-skelter to find beds and it is high time treatment at home is made acceptable and implemented. It is essential to reduce demand for beds. Those eligible must be motivated to opt for CCCs and private centres," Dr Sudarshan said.

EXPRESS READ

Former DGP Mahapatra passes away

Bengaluru: Former DGP **Sushanth Mahapatra** (63) passed away at a private hospital here on Friday evening. He was living in Horamavu with his family members. An IPS officer of the batch of 1979, he was superannuated in December 2016. Mahapatra was in news for questioning the State government's decision on appointing Om Prakash, a 1980-batch IPS officer, as the DG&IGP in 2015, overlooking his seniority. Mahapatra had also lodged complaint against two IPS officers, who were heading the Karnataka State Police Housing Corporation, with the Lokayukta, accusing the officers of corruption, in 2015. **ENS**



Town Panchayat Office, Jagalur - 577528

E-mail: istaff_urb_jagalur1@yahoo.com; Ph: 08196-227343
Website: <http://www.jagalurtown.mrc.gov.in>

Sl.No. PPam:Jaga/tender/CR/04/2020-21 Date:13.07.2020
E-Procurement short term tender Publication

Tenders for the following works have been invited through the e-procurement portal in the form of dual-envelope system - KW-3 for different schemes of the office. Interested contractors can participate through E-procurement portal.

Details of the Work: SFC special grant for the year 2019-20:

(1) installation of work of mini high mast light in the limits of Jagalur Town Panchayat, one each from ward no.1 to ward no. 18, near new bus stand, near Travelers Bungalow, near Challakere road park and near valmiki community Bhavan. DMA/2020-21/OW/Work_INDENT 103417. Estimated Amount: Rs.100.00 lakhs.

(1) Applications shall be submitted for Blank Tender forms as per e-procurement and last date for submitting filled tenders 21.07.2020 before 5:00 PM. (2) Date of opening of Technical Bid: 27.07.2020 before 11:00 AM, (3) Date of opening Financial Bid Date: 30.07.2020 11:00 AM, Place Jagalur Town Panchayat Office, Enrollment for e-procurement apply through www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in and obtain tender forms and fill the tender form, any applications will not be received in this office. (4) Town Panchayat reserves the right of accepting or rejecting the tender. (5) For more details login to www.jagalurtown.gov.in and www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in to participate in tender and obtain details.

DIPR/Davangere/196/2020-21 Sd/- Chief Officer, Town Panchyat, Jagalur.

THE SECRET OF GETTING AHEAD IS GETTING STARTED MARK TWAIN

Government of Karnataka
Public Works, Port and Inland Water Transport Department, Udupi Division, Udupi. (PIU)
Website : <https://www.kpwd.gov.in> Email: eeudp@kpwd.gov.in
No EE/PWD/UDN/NT/10/2020-21/AE-2 Dated:16.07.2020

Tender Notice

The Tenders for the following works are invited through e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka (Viz. www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in)

Name of Work: (1) Improvement to Shanheri road and Bridge in Yalajith Village, Byndoor Taluk. Amount put to tender: Rs. 92.57 Lakhs, EMD: Rs. 2.00 Lakhs, Last date for Submission of tender in Eprocurement: 30.07.2020, Eligible Tenderer: Class-3 & Above.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
DIPR/UDN/ICA/20320-21 dt. 17.7.20 P.W.P and IWT Dept., Udupi Division Udupi

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Department of Social Welfare
JOINT DIRECTOR OFFICE, DHARWAD
Office Ph: 0836-2447201, Fax: 0836-2435475 E-mail : dswd.dharwad@gmail.com
No: JDSWD/DWD/FOOD TENDER-D/CR-2020-21 Date: 16.07.2020

TENDER NOTIFICATION CALL-02

Joint Director, Social Welfare Department Dharwad, Here by invites Technical & Financial Bids from officially registered, eligible suppliers, Non-governmental organization who are registered under law, co-operative societies who are registered under society act to Supply food materials for pre-metric, Post Metric Hostels/Ashrama School NPK Spread over Dharwad Taluk as described in the Schedule of requirements.

1	Tender Reference No. and Date	JDSWD/DWD/FOOD TENDER-D/CR- / 2019-20 RECALL/2020-21, Date: 16-07-2020
2	Amount put to Tender	Rs: 5,53,10,000/-
3	Tender Apply start Date	16-07-2020
4	Last date and Time for submission of Tender	14-08-2020 Time 17.30 PM
5	Pre Bid Meeting Date Place and Time	30-07-2020 As per e-portal
6	Last Date for Submission of samples	03-08-2020 Time : 17:30 PM
7	Date and Time of opening of Technical bid	18-08-2020 Time : 11:00 AM at: Office of the Deputy Commissioner Dharwad (Subject to change)
8	Date Time and Place of opening of financial Bid	24-08-2020 Time 11:00 AM at: Office of the Deputy Commissioner Dharwad (Subject to change)
9	EMD Amount	Rs: 8,29,650/-
10	Venue of opening of Tenders and address for communication	Joint Director Social Welfare Department, DC, Compound, Dharwad Phone No: 0836-2447201 E-mail: dswd.dharwad@gmail.com

Interested eligible Registered in e-procurement portal bidders can download the bid documents with visiting the web site: www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Joint Director
Social Welfare Department Dharwad
DIPR/DWD/Yakshi/2020-21/205

ARMY INSTITUTE OF LAW
SECTOR-68 MOHALI - 160062
Tele : 0172- 5095336- 38, E-mail: info@ail.ac.in

ADMISSION NOTICE
CORRIGENDUM : LET ON 29 AUGUST 2020

1. LET scheduled for 24 July 2020 stands postponed and will now be conducted at all centers on 29 Aug 2020 (9 AM to 11 AM).
2. Portal for online applications being re-opened from 21 July to 31 July 2020. Refer our website www.ail.ac.in for details. Principal

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.KPTCL/T(W&M)/MYS/SEE/EEE(O)AEE-1/20-21/1880-83 Date: 15-07-2020

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(E-Procurement mode only)

KPTCL invites bid against Enquiry No.:SEE/EEE(O)AEE-1/T(W&M)/MYS/19-20/REPL/21/CALL-4 for Replacement of 2x8 MVA, 66/11KV Power Transformer by 2x12.5MVA, 66/ 11KV Power Tr. at 66/11KV Sindhuvalipura Sub-station in Nanjund Taluk and Mysuru District.

The detailed notification regarding above said enquiry in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: <https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in> on hyper link "e-Procurement" OR <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> on or after 22-07-2020". Any further details can be obtained from the Office of the undersigned.

Sd/-, Superintending Engineer, Elec., Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, 1st Floor, Prasanna Bhavana, N.R. Mohalla, Mysuru-07.

NLC India Limited
'Navratna' - Government of India Enterprise
Regd. Office : First Floor, No.8, Mayor Sathyamurthy Road, FSD, Egmore Complex of Food Corporation of India, Chennai - 600 031.
Corp. Office : Block-1, Nayal-607 801, Coimbatore District, Tamil Nadu.
CIN No: L93090TN1956G0003507, Website: www.nlcindia.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR WORKS (e-Tender Sl.No.1,4&5)

Sl.No. Tender Ref. / Description of Works

1. UNIT: THERMAL POWER STATION - II EXPANSION: GM / Contracts / Thermal / T-455 / TS2E / BM / PTE / 2020-21 dt.08.07.2020: Back pass hanger tube modification works in Unit-I Boiler of TPS-II Expn. EMD: ₹ 78,000/-

2. UNIT: MINE-I: GM / T / MINES / NA / SME / PTE / D010 / 2020-21: Mines - SME - Non AMC - Non Short Term- Conducting structural stability test and other connected works in certain SMEs working in Mine-I, Mine-II and Mine-III in Neyveli. EMD: ₹ 6,71,000/-

3. UNIT: MINE-II: GM / T / MII / NA / HR / PTE / C027 / 2020-21: HR-Non AMC - Non Short Term - Upkeep and assisting the food stuff preparation system in Industrial Canteen of Mine-II. EMD: ₹ 1,21,000/-

4. UNIT: CENTRAL TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT: CTD / T-10 / BLSA / 16 Hrs. / AS-10 / 2020: Hiring of 1 No. Basic Life Support Ambulance on 16 Hrs. basis for the use of NLCIL for a period of 5 years. EMD: ₹ 10,000/-

5. NTPCL / TUTCORIN: CEO / NTPCL / TURB / CONT / PTE / 2582 / 2020-21, dt.16.07.2020: Online leak arresting of steam leaks at NTPCL. EMD: ₹ 34,000/-

Cost of Tender } Sl.No: 1 to 4: ₹ 2,000/- (each)
Document } Sl.No: 5: ₹ 1,400/-
Approximate } Sl.No:1: ₹ 41,50,497.78;
value of work } Sl.No:4: ₹ 40,15,725/-

Period of Contract / Completion: Sl.No:1: One year from the date of handing over site; Sl.No:4: 60 Months; Sl.No:5: Two Years from date of LOA issued by NTPCL

Pre Bid Conference at 11.00 Hrs.: Sl.No:1: On 20.07.2020

Sl.No.	Last date for Sale	Last date for Receipt	Date & Time of Opening
1	01.08.2020 Up to 16.00 Hrs.	03.08.2020 Up to 14.30 Hrs.	03.08.2020 At 15.00 Hrs.
2	27.07.2020 Up to 15.00 Hrs.	28.07.2020 Up to 15.00 Hrs.	28.07.2020 At 15.30 Hrs.
3	03.08.2020 Up to 15.00 Hrs.	04.08.2020 Up to 15.00 Hrs.	04.08.2020 At 15.30 Hrs.
4	04.08.2020 Up to 16.00 Hrs.	05.08.2020 Up to 15.00 Hrs.	05.08.2020 At 15.30 Hrs.
5	11.08.2020 Up to 14.30 Hrs.	11.08.2020 At 15.00 Hrs.	

FOR FURTHER DETAILS / CORRIGENDUM VISIT: www.nlcindia.com
PUBLIC SECTOR IS YOURS : HELP IT TO HELP YOU

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, MEDICAL EDUCATION & TRAINING, UTTAR PRADESH, 6th FLOOR, JAWAHAR BHAWAN, LUCKNOW

No. ME-3/2020/ 1209 Lucknow: Dated 16 July, 2020
The Time Schedule for the Mop-Up Round of UP NEET PG-2020

The Time Schedule for the admission through Mop-Up Round in the State of Uttar Pradesh for Government /Private Medical/Dental Colleges, Institutions/ Universities for Postgraduate (MD/MS/Diploma/ MDS Courses) is as follows:-

Date of Online Registration	17 th July 2020 (From 4:00 PM) To 20 th July 2020
Expected date of declaration of merit List	22nd July 2020
Date of Allotment in Government Medical/Dental Colleges	23th July 2020 (From 01:00 PM) to 24 th July 2020 (From 11:00 AM)
Date of Allotment in Private Medical Colleges	27 th, 28th, 29th July 2020 (From 11:00 AM)
Date of Allotment in Private Dental Colleges	30 th /31st July 2020 (From 11:00 AM)
Date of Admission	On-Spot (Candidate should submit full fee of course allotted alongwith original documents).

- Candidates can register for mop-up round by depositing 2000/- (Rs. Two thousand rupees) online by net banking/ debit card/ credit card/NEFT on the NIC website <https://upneet.gov.in>, Registration is mandatory.
- Mop-up round would be conducted at "Kalam center" in King George's Medical university Lucknow. Candidates should report at 11:00 AM on 23rd July 2020 and at 10:00 AM on the rest of dates.
- Only those Candidates are eligible for Mop-up round who have not been allotted any seat in first and Second round of UP Neet PG 2020 Counseling
- Candidates who have been allotted/admitted/ not joined/resigned any seat in UP will not be eligible for the Mop-Up round.
- Any candidate who has taken the admission in any PG course in any Medical college in India will also not be eligible for the Mop-up round.
- Candidates will have to produce certificates in original as well as two self attested photo copies at the time of document verification otherwise they will not be allowed to participate in mop-up round.
- Candidate should bring the Bank DD of Rs. 30,000/- for Government Seats, and Rs. 2,00,000/- for Private Medical colleges seats and Rs.1,00,000/- for Private Dental Colleges in favour of Director General Medical Education & Training U.P payable at Lucknow as a security Money (Only CTS Bank DD will be accepted)
- Candidates, who have deposited security money, fee in first /second round of counselling and have not been allotted any of the seats, are not required to produce the bank DD of security Money.
- Candidates should complete their admission process on-spot after the allotment.
- Candidates who wish to opt the seats in private Medical colleges can prepare the DD in advance for Tuition fee. The DD for Clinical seats of Rs. 14,00 Lakh and for Pathology seats of Rs. 5.00 Lakh in favor of Director General Medical Education & Training U.P payable at Lucknow. (Only CTS Bank issued DD will be accepted).
- Candidates who wish to opt the seats in private dental colleges should bring the bank DD of Rs. 200,000/- (Two Lakh) in favor of Director General Medical Education & Training U.P payable at Lucknow. (Only CTS Bank issued DD will be accepted)
- Difference of tuition fee would be submitted to the allotted college on the spot and excess fee will be adjusted in other heads.
- For further important and detailed information kindly visit the website. <https://upneet.gov.in> & www.updme.in.

Director General



If a mountain is a deity, not a pile of ore; if a forest is a sacred grove, not timber; if other species are biological kin, not resources; or if the planet is our mother, not an opportunity—then we will treat each other with greater respect

David Suzuki

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

CURRENT ACCOUNT, EXPORTS AND ATMANIRBHAR

For the first time in decades, India turned in both a trade and current account surplus. But that's no reason to cheer as the surplus was due to depressed demand for gold, fuel and machinery. When a country runs a current account surplus, it sells more goods and services than it purchases. In other words, it's a net lender with surplus forex to invest overseas. It also boosts employment due to higher domestic demand. But right now, none of this is happening. Even as the debate on whether India's current account should be in deficit or surplus to sustain our external sector balance is ongoing, it isn't an explicit policy variable like money supply, nor is it a policy target like GDP, inflation or unemployment rate.

As per the 'consenting adults view', also known as the Lawson Doctrine and Pitchford thesis among economic circles, it doesn't really matter whether the current account is in deficit or surplus as long it results from private sector saving and investment decisions. Sadly today, both saving and investment appear battered and are being compensated by government spending and the invisibles (services exports and remittance inflows). Now the trouble is, there's little public money to spend and given the rise of protectionism, any layoffs of Indians in the Middle East, the US or the UK can be savage.

If that happens, exports will have an added responsibility to keep our current account in check. Currently, India's lack of export dynamism compared to Vietnam or Bangladesh is evident. Our export basket is dominated by low-value engineering products, and gems and jewellery, while agriculture, textiles and handicrafts are negligible. The government should swiftly correct this imbalance. There's also a need for a special exports package for labour-intensive sectors including an export development fund to boost foreign trade. While the government made a right start encouraging producers and consumers to spend on domestic goods, we need an explicit medium-term strategy to ensure that Atmanirbhar doesn't end up as a mere catchphrase.

AP NEEDS TO RECALIBRATE ITS COVID STRATEGY

Going by statistics, it appears Andhra Pradesh is on its way into the third stage of the Covid pandemic, though opinions are divided and officials are loath to admit it. It was, of course, to be expected once the lockdown was withdrawn and people began to mingle freely in public places. At the time of Unlock 1 on June 1, the case count was 3,676 and by July 1, when restrictions were further eased, the number had gone up to 15,252, but well within manageable limits.

Fast forward to July 17, it has shot up to 40,646. If the first 10,000 cases took 103 days, the second 10,000 were recorded in 12 days, the third in seven days and the fourth in four days. Alongside this, casualties too have spiked. The first 50 deaths were reported in 47 days and the last 50 in just a couple of days. The reasons for the surge are varied, but the main cause is the lack of awareness among the people on the importance of wearing masks and maintaining physical distancing. The government, on its part, has done almost everything right till date in testing, tracing and treating. It has even pressed into service mobile testing labs to make testing accessible to people in rural areas and has been equipping hospitals with infrastructure to cope with 40,000 patients and more. Currently, the state has 19,814 active cases, which means it can handle double the number. Much to the relief of the poor and the middle class, Covid treatment has also been brought under the free health insurance scheme Aarogya Sri.

Nonetheless, going forward, a recalibration of strategy is called for with equal focus on creating awareness and containment. Lockdowns or tightening restrictions should not be ruled out. Kurnool has shown the way by adapting to the evolving situation. The situation in a few other districts such as East Godavari too is serious enough to warrant a partial lockdown in places. Frontline warriors are already stretched thin, and if the numbers keep going up at a faster clip, the situation might become difficult to handle.

In many instances, the management of religious institutions was handed over to the state by the courts. What is distinctive about the Padmanabhaswamy temple case?

WHY SC KERALA TEMPLE VERDICT IS PRAGMATIC

GB REDDY

Professor, University College of Law, Osmania University



AKASH KUMAR BAGLEKAR

Student, University College of Law, Osmania University

The apex court on 13 July 2020 in Sri Marthanda Varma vs. State of Kerala correctly settled the decade-long controversy regarding the management and administration of the Padmanabhaswamy temple in Thiruvananthapuram, holding that the erstwhile former Travancore royal family is the manager (shebait) of the temple properties. The top court has decided on the management of the religious institution based on diverse facts of the case and by emphasising on the origins of that particular institution.

This appeal was against the 2011 judgment of the Kerala High Court, which directed the state government to take over the management of the Padmanabhaswamy temple on the grounds that the Travancore ex-royals lost control over its management after the death of the last ruler in 1991. The apex court examined the royal family's management in the past and after the princely states of Travancore-Cochin (now Kerala) were brought into the Union of India in 1949, and set aside the decision of the Kerala High Court.

This article analyses the different circumstances which the Supreme Court considered before ruling in favour of the former royals by comparing it with a few judicial precedents.

In Durgah Committee vs. Syed Hussain Ali (1961), the Khadims of

the tomb of Khwaja Moin-ud-din Chishti of Ajmer challenged the validity of the Durgah Khwaja Saheb Act, 1955, which took away their "right of management of the Durgah", by arguing that the Act hindered their right to freedom of religion, among other fundamental rights. A Constitution Bench decided that the management of properties of the Durgah was always in the hands of the state and the denomination never had the right to manage the properties endowed in favour of a denominational institution. Consequently, Articles 26(c) and (d) of the Constitution also never came to the rescue of petitioners.

In Tilkayat Shri Govindlalji Maharaj vs. State of Rajasthan (1963), the Tilkayat challenged the validity of the Nathdwara Temple Act, 1959, which took away his right to manage the temple properties on the grounds that it was his private property and its deprivation violated his rights under Articles 25 and 26 of the Constitution. The Constitution Bench analysed the historical background of the temple and held that though the idols of the deities of the Nathdwara Temple belonged to the Tilkayat and his family the temple land was granted to him by a firman. Hence his "management rights" could be taken away by the state though his ceremonial rights were upheld. Noted jurist H M Seervai hailed this decision as a secular decision.

Similarly, in Seshammal vs. State of Tamil Nadu (1972) and A S Narayana Deekshitulu vs. State of AP (1996), the Supreme Court upheld the abolition of the hereditary appointment of *archakas* (priests) as an instance of a "secular act" for ensuring social reforms.

In many other cases, the management of religious institutions, as a "secular act", was handed over to the state by the courts in India. Then what is distinctive about the Padmanabhaswamy temple in Kerala that the apex court held that the management would lie in the hands of the former Travancore royals? Firstly, it is the antecedents of the temple. During ancient times, the Padmanabhaswamy temple was administered by the Ettaray-

ogam (Council of eight and a half priests). Then, Raja Marthanda Varma, after becoming the king of the erstwhile Travancore State, took full control of the Padmanabhaswamy temple and administered the entire kingdom as a servant of Lord Padmanabhaswamy by describing himself as Padmanabhadasa. After the merger of princely states into India, an agreement was entered into between the then Maharaja and the Union of India, represented by V P Menon, to ensure that the management of the Padmanabhaswamy temple remained with the royal family.

Secondly, Article 290A of the Constitution stipulates that certain sums of money have to be charged on and paid out of the consolidated funds of Tamil Nadu and Kerala every year for the maintenance of Hindu temples and shrines in those states. This provision inserted through the Seventh Constitution Amendment Act, 1956, relating to reorganisation of states, makes an exception only in the case of temples under control of the erstwhile Travancore-Cochin rulers, since they used to allocate money for the maintenance of shrines and the revenues from the temples would go into their treasury. The 1949 covenant between the Maharaja and the Union recognises that the temples in these two states would be funded

The court has rightly refused to take cognisance of the controversy around essential religious practices, if any, over the management of the temple affairs by the shebait, though it was raised by one of the interveners. Therein lies the pragmatism, much needed in the present era

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE TIGER IN INDIA

NANDITHA KRISHNA



Historian, environmentalist and writer based in Chennai

India's fourth tiger census, conducted with camera traps in 26,838 locations over 1,21,337 square kilometres, has entered the Guinness Book of World Records for conducting "the largest camera trap wildlife survey". An estimated 2,967 tigers live in India. But there are more tigers living in terrible conditions in roadside zoos in the US and bred as commodities for body parts in China's tiger farms.

Around 40,000 tigers were estimated in 1947. Hunting and habitat destruction decimated their population. The first-ever all-India tiger census conducted in 1972 revealed the existence of only 1,827 tigers. Mrs Indira Gandhi promulgated the Wildlife Protection Act in 1972 and 29 tiger reserves were created. Project Tiger took the population up to 3,500 in the 1990s, but the numbers suffered a setback thereafter, due to habitat destruction and large-scale poaching. Tigers were wiped out of Sariska, Rajasthan. Of the 2,967 tigers counted in 2018-19, over half are found in Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka.

Once upon a time, tigers roamed freely all over India. They appear on the seals of the Indus-Sarasvati civilisation, now a region of urbanisation and agriculture. Chennai's

original name was Puliur, or tiger town. Tigers were found in Bombay in 1929. They lived along the Yamuna, near Delhi and Agra. The Royal Bengal tiger of the Sundarbans was a legend.

The *Arthashastra* of Kautilya mentions the *vyala* (tiger) *vana*, reserved for tigers and wildlife, protected by royal command. Ashoka eschewed the hunt. The tiger is associated with Shakti or Goddess Durga; Ayyappa of Sabarimala and the planet Rahu ride the tiger; Vaghdeo or Vaghoba of Maharashtra and Huiraya of Karnataka are tiger deities. Bon Bibi of Bengal, riding a tiger, is the guardian spirit of the Sundarbans. Indian tradition venerated and protected this beautiful animal.

The tiger's end began with the Mughals: one animal against an army. Akbar introduced trophy hunting on an elephant or the *shikar*. Jehangir killed 86 tigers and lions in his first 12 years as ruler. A Mughal meal included 36 to 40 meat dishes, including wildlife meats.

Large-scale killing started with the British. After the Battle of Plassey in 1757, the British offered special rewards for any tiger killed. In 1770, a severe famine in eastern India resulted in the reversal of farm-

land to jungle: by eliminating wildlife, revenue land was increased.

Hunting was standard recreation for the British officials. Every army man participated in the hunt, hiding on a tree, while the tiger was brought out of its hiding place by 'beaters' and killed with a rifle. District level administrations facilitated hunts, local maharajas and zamindars lent their elephants, while peasants were employed as beaters (on foot) and were often mauled or killed by tigers: their lives were cheap, expendable. The sahibs took photographs with their kill, posing with the dead animal, gun in hand and one leg on the carcass, although generally finding and even killing the animal was accomplished by the natives. Poisoning, tying live baits to lure them or shooting from elephants—practices that break every ethical canon—were necessary in the larger British project of

The *Arthashastra* of Kautilya mentions the *vyala* (tiger) *vana*, reserved for tigers and wildlife, protected by royal command. Large-scale killing of tigers began with the British... The recent clearance for projects in forests and the new Environment Impact Assessment draft are threatening the animal's survival. We claim to follow the writ of ancient India, but we behave like alien Englishmen, destroying forests and killing their inhabitants

ridding the countryside of 'dangerous predators'.

The 'howdah' *shikar* borrowed from the Mughals was restricted to high-ranking officials. The tigers were driven towards the elephants and the 'first shot' had the right to the skin. Each viceroy had to shoot a record number of tigers. After his coronation in 1911, King George V and his retinue killed 39 tigers in 10 days in Nepal.

Wild animals were hunted to 'civilise' a wild landscape, an attitude based on the Biblical concept of an unproductive 'wilderness' that has haunted Western thought and action, and remove all impediments to settled agriculture. Animals like tigers, snakes, elephants, birds, etc., which challenged revenue land, had to be eliminated. The shyness of the tiger was described as its 'depraved nature', justifying elimination.

The tiger was declared as vermin and a bounty of ₹25 was paid for every predator killed. Bounty-killing tipped populations wherever habitat was under pressure. The cheetah was eliminated; lions survived in Gir alone, thanks to the Nawab of Junagadh. Over 80,000 tigers were slaughtered between 1875 and 1925. The tiger's range was restricted to hills and forests, inaccessible lands with abundant prey.

Indian maharajas outdid the British. The Maharaja of Kotah outfitted a Rolls Royce Phantom with spotlights for night hunting, mounted a machine gun and a Lantaka cannon for tiger safaris. Rewa kings in Central India had to kill 109 tigers

after their coronation. The late Maharaja of Mysore and his guests shot over a hundred tigers between 1945 and 1967. The Maharaja of Udaipur and Raja of Gauripur shot 500 tigers each, the Nawab of Tonk 600, Ramanuj Saran Singh Deo of Sarguja 1,100 tigers, and Colonel Kesri Singh of Jaipur 1,000. This does not include the other wildlife they killed.

Habitat loss, poaching for pelts and for components for traditional Chinese medicine are major threats to the tiger's survival. Farmers blame tigers for killing cattle and shoot or poison them. The recent clearance for projects in forests and the new Environment Impact Assessment draft are threatening the animal's survival. The growing human and cattle population, increasing demand for "development" in forest areas, open-cast mines, highways, railways and resorts keep up the pressure on the animal. Avni, a tigress in Maharashtra, was killed to accommodate a hunter, leaving two cubs to fend for themselves. The government does not care. Yet the tiger is our national animal.

The health of the tiger is the last hope for our ecology, biodiversity conservation and combating climate change. Covid-19 should teach us the importance of nature. We claim to follow the writ of ancient India, but we behave like alien Englishmen, destroying forests and killing their inhabitants. Unfortunately, political will has been replaced by greed.

(nankrishna18@gmail.com)

MAIL BAG WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

An inspiration

The news about visually impaired IAS officer Rajkumar Singh being posted as the Deputy Commissioner of Bokaro in Jharkhand is wonderful. The officer has highlighted the importance of vision over eyesight. Those who strive to do well in life despite many struggles should be encouraged and rewarded. **TR Krishnachandran, Thrissur**

A relief for Kerala's people

It is surprising it took so long for Kerala's CM to jettison his former secretary M Sivasankar despite damning evidence. But his eventual suspension came as a relief to supporters and the public as the government's credibility had been waning. **K V Raghuram, Wayanad**

Access to Jadhav

Pakistan's claim that former Indian Naval officer Kulbhushan Jadhav had refused to file a review petition against his death sentence seems fabricated. It is good that Pakistan is finally agreeing to one more consular visit, but it remains to be seen if this one will actually be unhindered as promised. **PP Sahadevan, Nileshtar**

Total revamp needed

The Congress is currently facing an existential crisis of monumental proportions. The only viable course of action is a total revamp of the party from top to bottom. It must work towards appealing to the younger generation. **V Padmanabhan, Bengaluru**

Save the national animal

This is with reference to *Why Assam's golden tiger is not exactly good news* (July 17). It was eye-opening to read that a golden tiger is not a wonder to cheer about but an inbred variety due to limited habitats. If the auctioning of coal mines is in the way for tigers to move freely in expansive habitats, the idea should be annulled. **Sanath Kumar TS, Thrissur**

Ensure genetic security

The editorial highlights how a golden tiger might be surprising, but is not good news. The government should work towards allocating the required space to tigers and ensure their genetic security. **Varadarajan A, Sirkazhi**

Informative column

This is with reference to *The silence on Kashmir's historical identity* (July 17). The article was interesting and informative. One hopes to see more such articles on the history of different parts of India. **Abhay Dixit, email**

Intertwined spiritually too

The author aptly highlighted the cultural and historical links Kashmir had with the rest of India. Apart from these connections, they have been intertwined in the intellectual and spiritual domains as well. The great Adi Shankaracharya is said to have visited Kashmir; the Shankaracharya temple in Srinagar stands testament to this. **Venkat Desikan, Chennai**

Understand severity

This is with reference to *Viral wave threatens to lash Tiruchy* (July 17). The case count as well as the death rate in Tiruchy are increasing. People need to understand the severity of the situation and listen to the authorities. **S Chodalingam, Kottaram**

More international flights

It is great that India has resumed flights to the US and France. This is a good sign. However, the country should work towards opening up international flights completely. By now, our internal mechanism to identify and isolate affected patients should be well in place to handle any cases coming from abroad. **Sunil G, T'pura**



Rahul Gandhi @RahulGandhi
We've crossed 10 lakh cases. If #COVID19 keeps spreading at this pace, we'll have over 20 lakh infections by August 10



Piyush Goyal @PiyushGoyal
Indian Railways has so far created employment equivalent to 1.61 lakh man-days for migrant workers



RS Surjewala @rssurjewala
The conspiracy to topple Rajasthan govt is clear now. This is a dark chapter in history of democracy!

Cong sees no hope in Pilot, CM targets again

Ashok Gehlot says former No. 2 was not on talking terms with him since the party recaptured Rajasthan in 2018

RAJESH ASNANI AND RICHA SHARMA @Jaipur/New Delhi

AS the Pilot-Gehlot battle reached the court, the growing feeling within the Congress was that Sachin Pilot has gone too far, to the point of no return. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Friday gave enough hints, going much beyond his repeated charge that Pilot wanted to topple his government. He said his former No. 2 was not even on talking terms with him ever since the party recaptured Rajasthan in the 2018 assembly polls.

Pilot has repeatedly trashed the charges, asserting that Gehlot was tarnishing his image.

"Pilot was conspiring to bring down our government from the very beginning. He never talked to me. In a democratic set-up, dialogue is essential. Here was a Cabinet minister who did not make any effort to speak to his Chief Minister," said Gehlot.

In his media interaction, the CM said Pilot had been keen to join the BJP, but couldn't as he didn't have the numbers to bring down the government.

"Sachin is trying to project himself as a big bechara (naive) since the SOG served him a notice over horse-trading. What he doesn't tell is that the same notice was given to about 10-12 people, including me. Pilot has been working with BJP to finish the Congress which has given him so much," said Gehlot.

The Congress leadership is now firming up a case for disqualification of rebel MLAs in

Cops vs cops at resort with Pilot MLAs

There was high drama at the ITC Grand Bharat hotel near Manesar in Haryana when a team of the Rajasthan Police SOG of the that reached the hotel to meet MLAs loyal to Sachin Pilot was stopped by a strong contingent of the Haryana Police. The team was stopped and made to wait at the gate of the resort. It is alleged that many of the Haryana Police personnel did not have their name badges. The Haryana policemen maintained they no information of any inter-state police operation. It was only after a wait of about one-and-a-half hours that the Rajasthan Police team was allowed to go inside. The team screened the resort and left after some time.

the Pilot camp. "The Gehlot camp is in no mood to relent after Pilot approached the court challenging the notice issued to him by the Speaker. There has been no indication from the other side also for any compromise," said a Congress leader.

The party said it has more evidence to show that Sachin's associates were talking to Union minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat to topple the Gehlot government.

"The transcript released today was to prepare the legal ground for anti-party activities by these MLAs. More evidence will be released in the coming days to prove that the BJP was attempting to topple the state government," said a source.



Congress leaders RS Surjewala (2nd L), Govind Singh Dotasra and others arrive to address a press conference in Jaipur | PTI

Tapes implicating in horse-trading doctored, ready for probe: Shekhawat

MANISH ANAND @New Delhi

BJP's Rajasthan poster boy Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Friday claimed that the tapes released by the Congress implicating him in horse-trading to topple the Ashok Gehlot government were doctored. The Congress, by levelling the allegations, has seemingly pitch-forked Shekhawat to a position of reckoning in Rajasthan politics.

Drifting from the central BJP's stance to maintain silence over the Gehlot-Pilot feud — till the saffron outfit found it comfortable to step into the fluid political situation — Shekhawat was the only BJP leader in New Delhi commenting on the developments in Jaipur on the day



Congress rebel Sachin Pilot was spurning his party's overtures to buy peace with Gehlot.

On Friday, Shekhawat tweeted: "Yato Dharmastato Jayah". Earlier, he told reporters that the voice in the tape wasn't his and that he would cooperate with any investigations.

Shekhawat's has been a meteoric rise in politics, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi trusting him with the

ambitious mega scheme to supply tap water to each home by handing over the reins of the Jal Shakti Ministry.

Modi had spotted his talent when Shekhawat, as Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare, slogged harder than Cabinet minister Radha Mohan Singh.

At 53, Shekhawat suited well in the BJP's strategy to groom the next generation leaders in states which had been led by satraps for decades. Former BJP chief Amit Shah, sources said, found leadership potential in Shekhawat due to his accessibility and organisational and communication skills. Shekhawat justified the trust Modi-Shah had in him by trouncing Vaibhav Gehlot, son of CM Ashok Gehlot, from Jodhpur Lok Sabha seat.

Pakistan now offers 'unimpeded' access to Jadhav

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

PAKISTAN on Friday said it was ready to give India consular access to Kulbhushan Jadhav again, a day after New Delhi hit out at Islamabad for providing access in an intimidating atmosphere. This will be the third consular access to Jadhav.

Pakistan's foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said that they have agreed to India's demand to not have a security personnel during the meeting. Qureshi also claimed that Indian officials left without talking to Jadhav on Thursday.

"Jadhav kept asking the Indian diplomats to talk to him and they left. If the Indian dip-

lomats did not want to talk to him, why did they ask for consular access? They objected to the glass that had been placed in the middle so we removed it. They had also objected to audio and video recordings so that was also not done. We fulfilled all their requests, but still they left," Qureshi claimed.

On Thursday, India had hit out at Pakistan for not providing unimpeded access to Jadhav.

"The consular officers could not engage Jadhav on his legal rights and were prevented from obtaining his written consent for arranging his legal representation," MEA spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said.

He added that the consular officers were of the opinion that the access was neither meaningful nor credible.

Jadhav, a former Indian Navy officer, has been arrested by Pakistan on charges of espionage and subsequent

ly sentenced to death by a military court of the country. Earlier this month, Pakistan claimed that he had refused to file a review plea and instead decided to rely on his mercy petition.

India has alleged that Pakistan had coerced him to refuse and accused it of not implementing the ICJ order in letter and spirit. India had moved the ICJ, which ruled that consular access be provided to Jadhav, stayed his execution and also asked Pakistan to create a review mechanism.

Meanwhile, Pakistan foreign office reiterated the offer to file an appeal in the Islamabad High Court against Jadhav's conviction and subsequent death sentence by a military court.

Today, you have a country which is economically in trouble; in trouble as far as foreign policy is concerned; and that's why the Chinese have decided that this is possibly the best time to act

Our major partnerships are stronger & international standing higher. There are regular summits & informal meetings with US, Russia, Europe and Japan. India engages China on more equal terms

US promises to do everything for India-China peace

US President Donald Trump on Thursday said that he wants to do everything he can to ensure peace for the people of India and China. "He (Trump) said I love the people of India and I love the people of China and I want to do everything possible to keep the peace for the people," White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany said while responding to a question. The US has strongly backed India during the ongoing standoff against China with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo accusing Beijing of instigating the clash.

Rahul flays PM for 'constant blunders', Jaishankar hits back

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

ATTACKING Prime Minister Narendra Modi over Chinese incursion in Ladakh, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Friday said that PM's constant blunders and indiscretions have fundamentally weakened India and left it vulnerable. In a video message as part of a series planned by Congress, Rahul said empty words don't suffice in the world of geopolitics and that over the last six years, India has been disturbed and disrupted with regard to its foreign policy and economy.

"Since 2014, the PM's constant blunders and indiscretions have fundamentally weakened India and left it vulnerable," he alleged.

"Today, you have a country which is economically in trouble; in trouble as far as foreign policy is concerned; in trouble with its neighbours; and that's why the Chinese have decided that this is possibly the best time to act and that is why they have acted," he said.

The former Congress president has been attacking the PM over the killing of Indian soldiers in Ladakh and Chinese occupying Indian Territory.

"Countries are not protected by one thing but the confluence of forces and systems. A country is protected by its foreign relationships, it is protected by its neighbourhood, by its economy, by the feeling

that its people have and the vision that its people have," he said.

He also attacked the PM on the state of the economy saying the economy was India's pride. "But, India has seen the worst economic growth in 50 years and there is no end in sight. Our strengths have suddenly become our weaknesses," he said.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar gave an almost point-by-point rebuttal to Gandhi's video. The minister in a series of tweets said that India's international standing is higher now.

"Rahul Gandhi has questions on foreign policy. Here are some answers: Our major partnerships are stronger & international standing higher. There are regular summits & informal meetings with US, Russia, Europe and Japan. India engages China on more equal terms politically. Ask the analysts," he said.

Jaishankar said India now speaks its mind more openly on OPEC, BRI, South China Sea and on UN-sanctioned terrorists, etc.

"And address the border infrastructure imbalance legacy. Compare 2014-20 with 2008-14. Budget up by 280%, road building by 32%, bridges by 99% and tunnels by 6 times. Ask our Jawans," he said.

As a parting shot, Jaishankar said, "Pakistan (that you skipped) surely notes the difference between Balakot & Uri on one hand, and Sharm-el-Sheikh, Havana & 26/11 on the other. Ask yourself."



Today, you have a country which is economically in trouble; in trouble as far as foreign policy is concerned; and that's why the Chinese have decided that this is possibly the best time to act

Rahul Gandhi, Congress leader



Our major partnerships are stronger & international standing higher. There are regular summits & informal meetings with US, Russia, Europe and Japan. India engages China on more equal terms

S Jaishankar, EAM

EDUCATION

SC refuses to hear plea on single board

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a PIL on 'one nation-one board' for students, saying it would not want to burden children with more books. A bench headed by Justice D Y Chandrachud said, "Our children already have such heavy bags. Their backs are already breaking with this weight. Why do you want to put some extra weight on them?"

The court asked him to have some empathy for the children and not press for something which may add to their school bag weight. It further noted that the demands to have a common education board for the entire country and a uniform syllabus are matters of policy. "Everything asked by you is a matter of policy. How can we say merge all boards? Have a particular kind of syllabus? We cannot be saying all this. It is not for a court to say all this," the bench told Upadhyay.

When Upadhyay pointed out that different boards teach completely different syllabus, the judge observed, "Different syllabus can be because we need to promote diversity in the country. Let them (children) learn as much as they can."

Upadhyay then emphasised that issues being raised by him are important.

Justice Chandrachud said, "Important but not justiciable. There are one thousand and one issues which could be important but not everything is justiciable."

PM delivers keynote address at ECOSOC

NEW DELHI: PM Narendra Modi delivered a keynote address virtually at the High-Level Segment of the United Nations Economic and Social Council session. The theme of the High-Level Segment this year is "Multilateralism after COVID19: What kind of UN do we need at the 75th anniversary". Modi recalled India's long association with the ECOSOC and the UN's developmental work.

Parliamentary committee meeting called off

NEW DELHI: A meeting of the Parliamentary standing committee on External Affairs was called off on Friday due to lack of quorum. Sources said that only three members of the 31 members were present. Apart from Chairman P P Chowdhury, Rajya Sabha members K J Alphonse and Sapaw Das Gupta came to attend the meeting. The committee comprise a total of The agenda which was fixed for the meeting today was on consideration and adoption of the draft report on "the registration of Marriage of Non-Resident Indian, 2019"

Rajya Sabha members to take oath on July 22

NEW DELHI: The newly elected members of Rajya Sabha will be administered oath on July 22. For the first time, administration of oath will be done in the chamber of the House during inter-session. Subscribing to oath or affirmation is usually done either during the session or in the chamber of the Chairman of the upper house, if the House is not in session, said Rajya Sabha secretariat.



MESSAGE OF BROTHERHOOD

A Sikh man performs 'sewa' at Khairuddin Jama Masjid in Amritsar on Friday to promote harmony among people | PTI

40% in Ahmedabad had antibodies against Covid in May, shows sero survey

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

A sero-survey undertaken by the Indian Council of Medical Research in containment areas across 10 Covid hotspot cities in May had shown the highest — 40 per cent — sero-positivity in a cluster in Ahmedabad, this newspaper has gathered.

This means 40% of the individuals whose blood samples were tested to check for antibodies against the virus in a containment zone in the city

had contracted the disease and recovered quickly.

Nearly 36% of the samples collected from Mumbai's Dharavi, Asia's biggest slum with a population of over 8.5 lakh, also had antibodies against SARS CoV-2, indicating that the actual number of cases detected in the area were just a tip of the iceberg. Sero-positivity range in most other clusters in the cities where the exercise

was carried out, however, was found to be in the range of 15-30%, as reported by this newspaper earlier.

These findings, as part of a two-part sero survey study, will soon be published in the ICMR's Indian Journal of Medical Research after a delay of several weeks, for which the Council has faced a lot of criticism. The cities where the sero survey was conducted in-

cluded Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Pune, Delhi, Kolkata, Indore, Thane, Jaipur, Chennai and Surat — which at that time contributed 70% of cases in India.

The full report of the survey was shared with an expert committee on Covid-19 surveillance and epidemiology under the

ICMR earlier this week.

"The report has almost confirmed the long-standing view that despite lockdown measures in the early period of outbreak, the virus had been transmitted rampantly in many cities," said a committee member. "The findings also ex-

plain the swift decline in cases in areas like Dharavi starting June, and suggests that many localities may have reached herd immunity already, as expected epidemiologically."

Another member said the finding also confirmed that the quality of ELISA testing kit used for the exercise was good. "Very low sero-positivity was found in areas with zero or low cases while it was high in areas with high case loads — consistent with the detected spread."

The report has almost confirmed the long-standing view that despite strict lockdown measures in the early period of pandemic outbreak in India, the virus had been transmitted rampantly in many cities

Member, expert committee on Covid-19 surveillance and epidemiology, ICMR

Covid: Families of CAP jawans to get govt aid

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

THE Central government will provide compensation to the families of the 36 coronavirus warriors of the Central Armed Police Forces who lost their lives to the disease, officials said on Friday. They also added that the families of these personnel will be provided additional amount from the Bharat ke Veer funds. The families of brave hearts who lost their lives to COVID-19 while on duty are being taken care of, a home ministry official said. The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), which is the largest paramilitary force, has suffered the highest casualties and has lost 13 men to the infection.

The Border Security Force and the Central Industrial Security Force have both lost 9 men each to the disease. Three personnel of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police and two personnel of the Sashas-ta Seema Bal have also died due to COVID-19.

Though the recovery rate of COVID-19 among CAPFs is better than the recovery rate among the overall recovery rate of the country, so far, 7,267 paramilitary personnel have been infected by the virus.



Villagers try to fix an uprooted electric pole at a flood-affected village in Assam's Morigaon district on Friday | PTI

Assam flood: Toll reaches 76 with five more deaths

Over 35.76 lakh people hit, crops affected in over 1.28 lakh hectares

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guwahati

FIVE more people died on Friday in Dhubri, Darrang, Bongaigaon, Goalpara and Kamrup districts, taking the toll to 76 in flood-hit Assam.

Another 26 victims had lost their lives in landslides earlier in the Northeast state.

According to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority, 35.76 lakh people in 3,014 villages and localities across 28 of the state's 33 districts are affected. Standing crop was affected in area spread over 1.28 lakh hectares. Altogether 711 relief camps were operational in 24 districts where 51,421 people are taking shelter.

Floodwater breached a number of river embankments and damaged bridges and roads across the state. Major rivers such as Brahmaputra, Jia Bharali, Beki and Kopili in the Brahmaputra Valley and Barak and Kushiya in the Barak Valley were in a spate.

In Kaziranga National Park, 86 animals have perished so far due to various reasons including drowning and vehicle hits. The animals included five rhinos, two wild buffalos, seven wild boars, two swamp deer, two porcupines and 68 hog deer.

Concerned about the damage caused by the flood, Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama wrote to Chief Minister Sarba-

nanda Sonowal. "The monsoon rains in Assam and other parts of India bring destruction and great suffering to people year after year. Unfortunately this year the situation has been made even more troublesome by the continuing coronavirus pandemic. I am writing to you today to express my sadness at the loss of life and devastation of property, as well as the tremendous hardship caused to so many due to flooding in many parts of your state," he wrote.

He also made a donation from the Dalai Lama Trust towards the relief and rescue efforts. England's Arsenal football club also expressed its solidarity with the victims of the deluge.

VARAVARA RAO

NHRC notice to Maha chief secy, DG prisons

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE National Human Rights Commission on Friday issued notices to Maharashtra Chief Secretary Sanjay Kumar and Director General, Prisons, SN Pandey regarding the deplorable health of poet and social activist P Varavara Rao, who is an accused in the 2018 Elgar Parishad case.

It gave the authorities two weeks to respond to the notices, after taking cognizance of a complaint filed by Maja Daruwala, special monitor, NHRC on the health condition of Rao, who tested positive for COVID-19.

According to the complaint, Rao is suffering from multiple old-age-related health complications and he also tested Covid-19 positive on Thursday, which has further aggravated his condition.

Stating that right to life and medical care are basic rights, the NHRC said the cost of Rao's treatment must be borne by the state as he is an under trial prisoner and therefore, he is the state's responsibility. The onus is on the state to provide appropriate medical care in a bid to ensure that there is no danger to his life, it asserted.

The state government was directed to constitute a medical board to examine Rao's health condition and ensure that the treatment being pro-

vided to him is appropriate. The Board has to decide whether Rao should be admitted to a government-run or private hospital for the best possible treatment.

Dr Akash Khobragade, medical superintendent of the Saint George hospital, said that Rao was brought from Sir JJ hospital to the hospital on Thursday night. "We have done ECG and X-ray. All are normal. Mr Rao has been having neurological mental disorder. A CT scan will be done and required treatment will be provided in our hospital," he said. Another doctor said Rao was, at times, speaking very incoherently.

Meanwhile, Rao's bail plea could not be heard by Bombay High Court due to lack of time. Rao had moved the HC appealing against the order of the Special NIA court, which had rejected his interim bail application on June 26. The activist had sought interim bail on the grounds of failing health and susceptibility to COVID-19.

On May 28, Rao was taken to Sir JJ Hospital after he had lost consciousness. Later, he was discharged on June 1. Rao was again admitted to Sir JJ Hospital on July 13. On Thursday, he was shifted to St George's Hospital after he tested Covid positive.

EXPRESS READ

Nepalese man tansured over Oli's Ram comment

Lucknow: Members of Vishwa Hindu Sena (VHS) allegedly tansured a person of Nepal origin in Varanasi and forced him to raise slogans against Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli for his recent comment on Lord Ram's birthplace. Sources said the key accused, VHS convenor Arun Pathak, later shot a video of the incident and uploaded it on his Facebook wall. The incident allegedly took place on the banks of the Ganga at Samnaghat area on Thursday. The Varanasi police registered an FIR under various IPC sections, besides the IT Act, against Pathak. Nepal envoy Nilamber Acharya called up CM Yogi Adityanath and expressed concern over the episode.

HOW NATIONAL, FINANCIAL CAPITALS BENT COVID CURVE

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI & SOMRITA GHOSH
@ Mumbai/New Delhi

IN the past fortnight, the Covid-19 caseload per day in Delhi and Mumbai would appear to have come down — the figure hovering around 1,500 for both the cities.

Delhi has now more than one lakh cumulative cases but the active case count is only a little over 17,000. The Delhi government had earlier predicted that the number of cases was likely to touch 2.25 lakh by July 15.

In Mumbai, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation claims this is an early sign of the curve starting to flatten. So, is the worst over in the national and financial capitals of India?

Health experts in Delhi say the peak has already been attained, and the cases have started declining. They, however, caution that there won't be a steep fall in the number of new cases, per day which may remain around 1,000 for some more days.

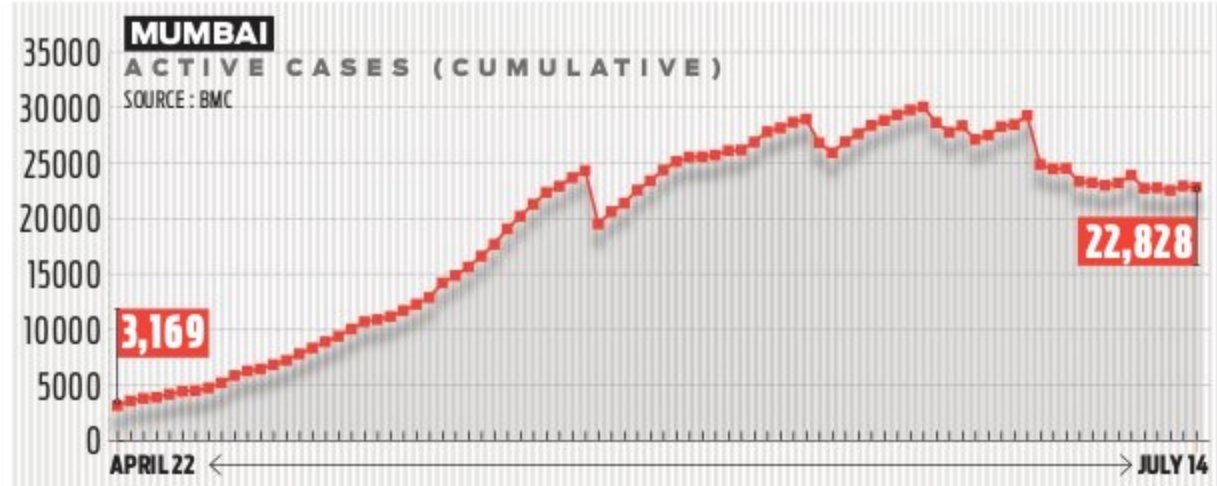
"The curve is definitely going down, but the number of RT-PCR tests is going down too, with the state relying too much on the RAT (Rapid Antigen Tests), which do not always capture the true positive cases. The areas outside the containment zones may continue to contribute to the virus spread," said Dr PK Tyagi, an expert in community medicine in Delhi.

Here is how the 'pulse' of the two cities feels like:

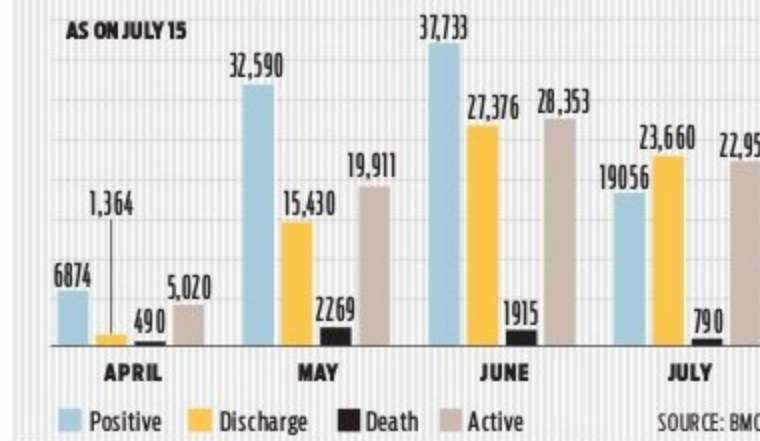
Mumbai: BMC deputy commissioner Vijay Balamwar said the key to containing the virus in the Maximum City was in the slum areas. "We have decided to chase the virus by conducting door-to-door screenings as per CM's direction. We don't wait for the patients to come to the BMC-run hospitals and health centres."

The civic body is focusing on four Ts — tracing, tracking, testing and treatment. "That has helped us to bring down the Covid-19 cases and deaths in Mumbai," says Balamwar.

Dharavi — the largest slum area in Asia with a population of over 1,00,000 in just over 2.25 sq km — gave the first sign of change. "We targeted other slums too, to contain the virus spread. Thus, the target areas in combating Covid-19 are the densely populated pockets,



CASE SUMMARY FOR MUMBAI



which we found are the key to flattening the curve in Mumbai," Balamwar said.

The Maharashtra government has roped in local NGOs, social activists and private doctors. Various ministers of the Maha Vikas Aghadi government — Aaditya Thackeray, Aslam Sheikh, Varsha Gaiwad and Nawab Malik — have specific responsibilities.

For instance, Malik said he has two zones under his watch. More than 30% of these areas have slums. "Initially, people were reluctant to come for testing. But we convinced them that by doing so, they will be helping themselves and their family members. This resulted in controlling the virus at the source."

A senior civic official said the mass migration of workers led to better management of the virus spread. The BMC created jumbo quarantine facilities with around 18,000 beds where each bed has either attached oxygen cylinders or ventilators. "One of the best decisions that the BMC took was to encourage people to do testing voluntarily without any prescription. So, most of the people staying in apartments are coming forward for the test. That is helping us to get real-time data and devise the strategy," said an official.

New Delhi: To tackle the rising cases — the number per day was around 4,000 in June — Delhi increased the num-

ber of tests and started implementing Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) for mass testing in containment zones along with RT-PCR tests.

The number of containment zones were increased and followed by sero survey conducted by the NCDC and the Delhi government across all its 11 districts and a door-to-door survey initiated by the state government.

Dr Jugal Kishore, head of the community medicines department in Safdarjung Hospital, said the priority of the government should be on contact tracing, identifying and isolating the covid19 cases.

"Containment and lockdown are totally different approaches. More healthcare workers should be deployed on the ground and more door-to-door checks, sample collection, contact tracing need to be done. That should be the strategy, however what has been usually happening is restricting movement of residents and shutting down shops. But that's not the solution. Focus should be on total population," he added.

"Also testing and tracing need to be ramped up beyond containment zones, otherwise the virus carriers will continue to spread the infection further."

Encounter not fake, police fired at Dubey in self-defence: UP tells SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Uttar Pradesh government on Friday informed the Supreme Court that the allegations that Kanpur gangster Vikas Dubey and his associates were killed in staged encounters is not correct and the state authorities acted as per law and SC guidelines.

Dubey was shot dead while trying to escape after a car accident, the UP Police had announced on July 10.

In the affidavit filed through Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, the UP Government said that shooting back at Dubey was the only option for police

as the gangster had the intention of killing cops and flee, like he did before.

"All the four police persons in the vehicle got seriously injured and lost consciousness. Dubey snatched a pistol from an inspector and escaped through the backdoor of the police SUV," the affidavit said. "Police fired in self-defence as Dubey wanted to attack and not surrender."

"Vikas Dubey's killing is not a fake encounter. His case cannot be compared with the Telangana encounter. While Telangana didn't order a judicial

commission, the UP government has done so," the affidavit states, stressing that there was no need of a parallel court monitored probe. "As the gangster was facing 64 serious cases, he was serving life sentence in one of the cases and was out on parole, when on 2 July he massacred eight police officers on duty." Meanwhile, the SIT is mulling to make wife of one of Dubey's close aides an approver in the case. Manu Pandey, wife of Dubey's cousin Shashikant, was heard in audio clips calling up her father-in-law and discussing the preparations for the ambush.

Another Congress MLA resigns in Madhya Pradesh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

SUMITRA Devi Kasdekar, a first-time Congress MLA from Napanagar-ST seat, resigned from the Madhya Pradesh Assembly on Friday to become the second such party MLA in six days.

On Sunday, another first-time Congress MLA Pradyuman Singh Lodhi had quit from the Vidhan Sabha and subsequently joined the BJP.

Kasdekar's resignation was accepted by protem Speaker Rameshwar Sharma, MP Vidhan Sabha secretariat official sources confirmed to *TNIE*. She, then, joined the BJP. The MLA was unreachable as her

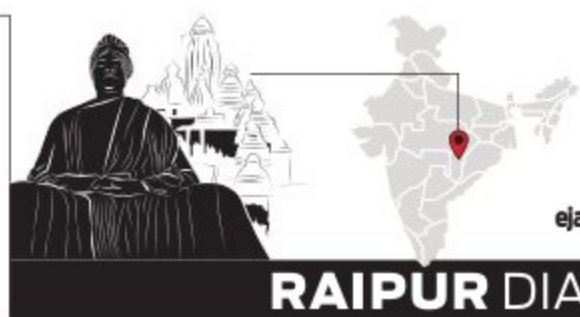
cell-phone was switched off. BJP sources in Bhopal, meanwhile, confirmed the possibility of Kasdekar joining the saffron party soon. Sources added that five-seven more legislators are feeling suffocated in Congress and may follow suit in the coming weeks.

While the state Congress vice president (media) Bhupendra Gupta dubbed the Napanagar MLA's resignation on Friday, the result of BJP's money-bag politics, BJP state spokesperson Rajneesh Agrawal responded saying the Congress is a sinking ship, which is why people are leaving it.



'Donate your mobile' campaign to help students

The Raipur Smart City Ltd (RSCL) has started a 'Donate your Mobile' campaign to help students access online classes through smartphones amid the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. The campaign aims to support the underprivileged poor students to get a smartphone and access online education. "Our objective is that no child should be deprived of online education," said RSCL MD Saurabh Kumar. The idea has taken the shape of a campaign and gained the attention of people from Raipur and other cities. People are coming forward to help the children of poor needy families. Various social and voluntary organisations are supporting the cause.



EJAZ KAISER
Our correspondent in Chhattisgarh

ejaz@newindianexpress.com

RAIPUR DIARY

AIIMS gets 10 portable ventilators from US-AID

The Raipur-based AIIMS has received 10 portable ventilators through United States Agency for International Development (US-AID). It will be helpful in the treatment of critical Covid-19 patients. "AIIMS has received 10 ZOLL ventilators manufactured in the US. The high-end ventilators can be judiciously utilised during Covid-19 treatment. Being portable and easy to use, we can also use it during a patient's movement from one place to another in the hospital area or even in an ambulance," said Prof (Dr) Nitin M Nagarkar, Director, AIIMS. These ventilators are part of the 100 ventilators offered by US President Donald Trump to India to assist its fight against the pandemic. Ventilators take over the body's breathing process when the infection has caused the lungs to fail.

State govt to buy cow dung for ₹2 per kg

The Chhattisgarh government will now procure cow dung at ₹2 per kilogram as part of its 'Gaudhan Nyay Yojana'. The Bhupesh Baghel Cabinet approved the price, including the transport expense, on Tuesday. The cow dung would be procured by Gauthan Samiti, that manages the cattle-shed with scores of cows, and self-help groups. In urban areas, it would be the responsibility of the urban administration department to obtain cow-dung while the forest management committee will cover the remote jungle terrain. The payment would be released within 15 days.



Preventing migration amid Covid crisis

The Bharat Aluminium Company (Balco) has initiated various projects under its community development programme to check the migration of local labourers and farmers in the Korba district. These projects aim to make these labourers and farmers self-reliant and generate local sources of livelihood. Migration to other cities and states in search of work has been a long-standing problem in Korba. The situation in the vicinity of the Balco plant was no different and the management with the help of local people's representatives analysed the situation. Balco CEO Abhijit Pati exhorted the farmers to access maximum benefit from Balco-Nabard sponsored projects.

US breaks records with 78K cases in a day

Number of patients hospitalised is at its highest level since late April, with Florida recording 11K infections on Friday

WASHINGTON

THE United States saw a new record being created, as the country reported 78,000 new infections on Thursday, according to the database run by Johns Hopkins University.

The number of patients hospitalised for the virus is at its highest level since April 23, according to The COVID Tracking Project.

The death rate, which plummeted in May and June, has been rising since last week. Florida, the new epicentre, posted more than 11,000 new cases and 128 deaths Friday.

The coronavirus kept surging in hot spots around the US on Thursday, with one city in South Carolina urging people to pray it into submission, a hospital in Texas bringing in military medical personnel and morgues running out of space in Phoenix.

In South Carolina, the mayor of Charleston asked for spiritual help. "We do turn to God at a time like this," Mayor John Tecklenburg said.

South Carolina has set records for Covid-19 hospitalisations nearly every day this month. The 69 deaths reported on Thursday pushed it well past 1,000 people killed by the virus, the 25th state to cross that somber threshold.



People walk the newly reopened High Line park on Thursday in New York City. The High Line reopened with new social distancing policies where visitors walk one way and maintain six feet apart and wear their masks | AFP

Record numbers of confirmed infections and deaths emerged again in states in the South and West, with hospitals stretched to the brink and fears worldwide that the pandemic's resurgence is only getting started. Texas reported 10,000 new cases for the third straight day and 129 additional deaths. The state has seen a third of its more than 3,400 total Covid-19 fatalities in the first two weeks of July alone. Florida reached another ominous record, with 156 virus deaths. In Louisiana, where officials thought they had contained the virus earlier this year only to become a hot spot again, it's averaged more than 2,000 new confirmed infections a day over the past week.

US SAYS REPEAT TESTING NOT NEEDED BY MOST

WASHINGTON: The US government's top official in charge of coronavirus testing is urging Americans not to get retested for Covid-19 to confirm they've recovered. Assistant Secretary for Health Admiral Brett Giroir said on Thursday that repeat testing is not necessary for most people who are infected but remain at home. He said such testing is 'clogging up the system.'

3M files cases for price gouging of N95 masks

MAPLEWOOD: The leading manufacturer of N95 masks in the US says it has investigated 4,000 reports of fraud, counterfeiting and price gouging in connection with the product and has filed 18 lawsuits. 3M is among the largest producers of N95 mask. 3M says courts have issued six temporary restraining orders and four preliminary injunctions so far to stop N95 sales that it says are unlawful.



Jared Kushner, Donald Trump's White House senior adviser | AP

Kushner retains place in rejigged campaign team

WASHINGTON

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump's long-incoming campaign shakeup rearranged some big job titles, but isn't likely to change the identity of the person truly in charge of day-to-day operations: Jared Kushner.

Kushner wields his influence quietly and is rarely a presence in the campaign's Washington headquarters. Fittingly, he was nowhere to be seen on Thursday when, in an emotional changing of the guard meeting, campaign manager Brad Parscale surrendered his title to onetime deputy Bill Stepien.

Facing strong electoral headwinds, it was Trump who demoted Parscale and elevated Stepien. But Kushner, the president's son-in-law and a senior White House adviser, is expected to remain the driving force behind a political operation built to respond to Trump's instincts and give him another four years in office.

Boris OKs workers returning to office

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson said Friday that people will no longer be told to work from home and avoid public transit in a major easing of lockdown restrictions — even as he said the government was "preparing for the worst" in case of a new coronavirus spike this winter.

Johnson said the government's advice to avoid non-essential use of public transit was being lifted immediately, and that from August 1 workers would no longer be told to do their jobs from home, if possible. He said it will now be up to businesses to determine whether they can bring employees back to workplaces in a "Covid-secure" way.

The UK's official pandemic death toll, which stood at more than 45,000 as of Friday, has for several weeks been the highest in Europe. Johnson is trying to walk a tightrope, avoiding a resurgence of the virus while also encouraging a return to shops, restaurants and workplaces to kick-start a moribund economy that has shrunk by a quarter since March. While some businesses have seen customers return in previous stages of lockdown easing, those that rely on office workers struggling, and Johnson is keen to see more people go back to city-center workplaces. AP

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MOHIT KUMAR SARASWAT, S/o Rajesh Kumar Saraswat, residing at No. P-1022/201, Suraksha Enclave, K.G.Halli, Bangalore, have changed my name from MAHEP KUMAR SARASWAT to MOHIT KUMAR SARASWAT vide affidavit dated 14/07/2020 sworn before Notary Leela, Bangalore.



HASSAN CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS SOCIETIES UNION LIMITED
P.B. NO. 120, INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, B.M.ROAD, HASSAN -573201
PH NO : 08172-295436 FAX: 08172-240640
E-mail Address: purchase.hamul@gmail.com
IFT NO.HCMU/PUR/ EPROC /2005/2020- 21 Date: 26/06/2020

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) TECHNICAL CUM COMMERCIAL TENDER

HAMUL invites E-Procurement tender for 1) Supply of the Corrugated Boxes (a) 3 ply Corrugated Boxes to pack 1000 ml brick packs with out partitions. b) 3 ply Corrugated Boxes to pack 500 ml brick packs with out partitions. c) 3 ply Corrugated Boxes to pack 180 ml Frink packs with 5 ply partitions. d) 3 ply Corrugated Boxes to 1000 ml Coffee day Boxes with out partitions. 2) Quantity & EMD amount : as per bid notification available in e-portal. 3) Last date for submission of tender: 28.08.2020. up to 5.00 PM. 4) Technical bid opening : 31.08.2020 at 3.00 PM. 5) Address for communication : Assistant Manager (Purchase) at the above address. 6) Tender document may be downloaded from website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in/>. Tender No: KMF/2020-21/IND8305
Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR

TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
Branch Address: No 82/1, Ground Floor, Krishna Towers, Bengaluru 560025
TATA Registered Address: 11th Floor, Tower A, Peninsula Business Park, Ganpatrao Kadam Marg, Lower Panel, Mumbai - 400013

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the below described immovable property mortgaged to Tata Capital Housing Finance Ltd. (Secured Creditor), the Physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Tata Capital Housing Finance Ltd. (Secured Creditor) will be sold on "As is where is" & "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" for recovery of total sum of outstanding from below mentioned Borrower's & Co- Borrower's The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit is mentioned below. Whereas the sale of secured asset is to be made to recover the secured debt and whereas there was a due of sum as mentioned below Notice is hereby given that, in the absence of any postponement/ discontinuance of the sale, the said property shall be sold by E- Auction at 2 P.M. on the said 07.08.2020 at No 82/1, Ground Floor, Krishna Towers, Richmond Road, Bengaluru - 560025. The sealed envelope containing Demand Draft for participating in E- Auction shall be submitted to the Authorized Officer of the TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LTD on or before 06.08.2020 till 5 PM. The sale of the Secured Asset/ property will be on "as is where condition is"

Sr. No	Loan A/c No	Name of Obligor(s)/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s)	Amount as per Demand/ Reserve Price	Earnest Money	Date of Inspection	Last date times of submission of sealed bid / offer	Date & Time of Auction
1	9017277	Mr. Biju Sunny (Borrower) and Mrs. Rani Sunny (Co-borrower)	Rs. 26,31,933/- as on 02.08.2017	15,58,894/-	24.07.2020 bet 11 AM to 5.00 PM	06.08.2020 till 5 PM.	07.08.2020 AT 2 P.M
Description of Secured Asset - Schedule - A : All that piece and parcel of the of the vacant site bearing No 22, 23 & 24, Katha no 365 each measuring, i) East to West 44'40"2 and North to South 64'55"2 (feet i) East to West 45 feet and North to South 73'44"2 (feet and ii) East to West 45'40"2 feet and North to South 73'40"2 feet sites combined measuring 9130 sq ft formed out of converted. Sy. No. 103 of Hosahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, duly converted for non-agriculture residential purpose as per the order of Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore vide his order in BGSJAL/NSR/0198/2000 dated 14.2.2000 and herein got all the records such as in Bruhatthi Bangaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Rajangeshwari Nagar, Bangalore. Transferred and made out its name in the records of Bruhatthi Bangaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Bangalore and the vendor has paid up to date taxes in respect of schedule a property and wherein all the 3 sites are situated adjacent to each other with a common boundary and bounded on the East By Site No. 25, West By: Ramappa & Gopalappa's Property, North By: Ramappa's Property, South By: Road. Schedule - B : (DESCRIPTION OF UNDIVIDED SHARE AGREED TO BE CONVEYED) undivided share right, title, interest & ownership in the schedule a property equivalent to 285 sq ft. Schedule - C : (DESCRIPTION OF THE APARTMENT) All that piece and parcel of the Apartment/Flat mentioned as TF -3 in the third floor portion of multi storied building called as Balaji Residency put up over the schedule a property containing a living room two bed rooms, kitchen, toilet and having a super built up area of 1100 sq. feet. to be equipped with vitrified tiles flooring, sanitary fittings & electrical wiring and other facilities with doors and windows of Sal wood, main door of teak wood, together with car parking space of 150 sq. ft. in the still floor of schedule a property.							
2	9139240	Mr. Ahmad Yunus Khan (Borrower) and Mrs. Tasreen Firdosi (Co-borrower)	Rs. 90,18,652/- as on 28.11.2016	49,89,095/-	24.07.2020 bet 11 AM to 5.00 PM	06.08.2020 till 5 PM.	07.08.2020 AT 2 P.M
Description of Secured Asset : All that piece and parcel of the residential House bearing No. 2A, First Floor, Chandra Layout, 1st Stage, 1st Stage, 13th Cross Nagarthahalli, Bangalore House No. 2A, Khathe No. 48, Nagarthahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Karnataka), admeasuring a total built up area of 2000 sq. ft., comprising of one hall, one kitchen, 3 bed rooms attached bedrooms with flooring, together with 50% undivided proportions share in the common area such as common car parking, staircase, terrace etc. and bounded by: North: School Property, South: Remaining Portion of the same Property, East: 30 Ft. Road, West: Private Property.							

At the Auction, the public generally is invited to submit their bid(s) personally. The description of the Secured asset/ property that will be put up for sale is as per above Schedule. The E auction will be stopped if, amount due as aforesaid, with interest and costs (including the cost of the sale) are tendered to the "Authorized Officer" or proof is given to his satisfaction that the amount of such secured debt, interest and costs has been paid before the date of the auction. No officer or other person, having any duty to perform in connection with this sale shall, however, directly or indirectly bid for, acquire or attempt to acquire any interest in the property sold. The sale shall be subject to the conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 and to the following further conditions : The E-auction will take place through portal <https://sarfaes.auctiontiger.net> or Auction tiger Mobile App (Android) on 07.08.2020 between 2.00 PM to 3.00 PM with limited extension of 10 minutes each. Terms and Conditions : 1. The particulars specified in the Schedule herein have been stated to the best of the information of the undersigned, but the undersigned shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. In the event of any dispute arising as to the amount bid, or as to the bidder, the lot shall at once again be put up to auction subject to the discretion of Secured Creditor. 2. The property shall not be sold below the Reserve Price. 3. Bid Increment Amount will be: Rs.10,000/- (Ten Thousand Only) 4. All the Bids submitted for the purchase of the property shall be accompanied by Earnest Money as mentioned above by way of a Demand Draft favoring the "TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LTD", Bangalore Address: No 82/1, Ground Floor, Krishna Towers, Richmond Road, Bengaluru - 560025. The Demand Drafts will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders after auction. 5. The highest bidder shall be declared as successful bidder provided always that he/she is legally qualified to bid and provided further that the bid amount is not less than the reserve price. It shall be in the discretion of the "Authorized Officer" to decline acceptance of the highest bid when the price offered appears so clearly inadequate as to make it inadvisable to do so. 6. For reasons recorded, it shall be in the discretion of the "Authorized Officer" to adjourn/discontinue the sale. 7. The person declared as a successful bidder shall, immediately after such declaration, deposit twenty-five per cent of the amount of purchase money/bid, which would include EMD amount to the "Authorized Officer" within 24 Hrs and in default of such deposit, the property shall forthwith be put to fresh auction/Sale by private treaty. 8. In case the initial deposit is made as above, the balance amount of the purchase money payable shall be paid by the purchaser to the "Authorized Officer" on or before the 15th day of confirmation of the sale of the property, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day be a Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office day after the 15th day. 9. In the event of default of any payment within the period mentioned above, the property shall be put to fresh auction/Sale by private treaty. The deposit including EMD shall stand forfeited by TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LTD and the defaulting purchaser shall lose all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may be subsequently sold. The property shall be resold at the discretion of the Authorized Officer. 10. Details of any encumbrances, known to TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LTD, to which the property is liable Nil. Claims, if any, which have been put forward to the property and any other known particulars bearing on its nature and value: Nil. 11. For any other details or for procedure online training on the e-auction the prospective bidders may contact the Service Provider: M/s e-Procurement Technologies Limited (Auctioneer), Address: B-74, Wall Street, N. G. Gujarat College, Ellis Bridge, Ahmedabad - 380006 Gujarat (India) Mob. : 926562821 & Phone : 079 61200 934 / 998 / 559 / 587 / 554 Email ID: arjitbhatt@tatacapital.com and Mobile No. 9029073260. Please send your query on WhatsApp Number - 9029073260, 12. Please refer to the below link provided in secured creditor's website For S.I.No.1 <https://bit.ly/2CE5yKx> For S.I.No.2 <https://bit.ly/32M7H2V>

Place: - Bangalore Date: 16-07-2020

Sd/- Name: Arjit Bhatt
Authorized Officer, Tata Capital Housing Finance Ltd

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SUPPLY OF STORES ITEMS "THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT TENDERS"

TENDER NOTICE No.: S/2020/24 Date: 16.07.2020

The Principal Chief Material Manager, North Western Railway, headquarter 4th floor, Near Jawahar Circle, Malviya Nagar, Jaipur-302017 for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open E-tenders on www.ireps.gov.in site as follows. All the E-tenders will be closed at 14.25 hrs.

No.	Tender No.	Description	Qty	Unit	Due date
1	82201268	SITAGLIPTIN PHOSPHATE 50 MG	233498	Nos.	29.07.2020
2	82201264	LINAGLIPTIN 5MG TAB	185930	Nos.	06.08.2020
3	70192086A	BATTERY OPERATED LED BASED TORCH LIGHT	2750	Nos.	07.08.2020
4	30202638	DENSIFIED THERMAL BONDED POLYESTER BLOCK	5886	Nos.	11.08.2020
5	30201940	FLAP DOOR ARRANGEMENT COMPLETE	1328	Nos.	11.08.2020
6	30202747	FLAP DOOR COMPLETE FOR BCNA	685	Nos.	11.08.2020
7	10204890	CYLINDRICAL ROLLER BEARING	26	Nos.	26.08.2020
8	50195675	10 PAIR/0.63MM COPPER CONDUCTOR	85	KM	26.08.2020
9	30200172	HANGER FOR BOLESTER SUSPENSION BG	7850	Nos.	08.09.2020
10	10204022	WATER PUMP REPAIR KIT	198	Nos.	23.09.2020

Note:- (1) Interested tenderers may visit the website for Full details/ description/specification/EMD & tender cost etc. All tenderers are requested to obtain digital signatures and get them registered on above site and quote electronically only. (2) For viewing and participating in other tenders such as open tender costing below Rs. 25 Lakh, limited tenders, special limited tenders and low value tenders, please visit www.ireps.gov.in. (3) For any information please see our solution centre, click our website www.nwr.indianrailways.gov.in. (660-AJ/20) Dy. Chief Material Manager/III

Follow us at [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/NWRRailways) / [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/NWRRailways) / [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/NWRRailways) / [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/NWRRailways) / [TikTok](https://www.tiktok.com/NWRRailways) / [Snapchat](https://www.snapchat.com/add/NWRRailways) / [Pinterest](https://www.pinterest.com/NWRRailways) / [Behance](https://www.behance.com/NWRRailways) / [Dribbble](https://www.dribbble.com/NWRRailways) / [Flickr](https://www.flickr.com/photos/NWRRailways) / [500px](https://www.500px.com/NWRRailways) / [DeviantArt](https://www.deviantart.com/NWRRailways) / [ArtStation](https://www.artstation.com/NWRRailways) / [Behance](https://www.behance.com/NWRRailways) / [Dribbble](https://www.dribbble.com/NWRRailways) / [Flickr](https://www.flickr.com/photos/NWRRailways) / [500px](https://www.500px.com/NWRRailways) / [DeviantArt](https://www.deviantart.com/NWRRailways) / [ArtStation](https://www.artstation.com/NWRRailways)

TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
Contact Add: 11 Floor, Tower A, Peninsula Business Park, Ganpatrao Kadam Marg, Lower Panel, Mumbai 400013 Contact No. (022) 61827414, (022) 61827375 CIN No. U67190MH2008PLC187552

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("Act") read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ("Rules"). Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Tata Capital Housing Finance Limited (TCHFL) under the Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (2) read with Rule 3 of the Rules already issued detailed Demand Notice dated below under Section 13(2) of the Act, calling upon the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) (all singularly or together referred to as "Obligors"/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s)) listed hereunder, to pay the amount mentioned in the respective Demand Notice, within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice, as per details given below. Copies of the said Notice(s) are served by Registered Post A.D. and are available with the undersigned, and the said Obligor(s)/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s), may, if they so desire, collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours. In connection with the above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Obligor(s)/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s) to pay to TCHFL, within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice(s), the amount indicated herein below against their respective names, together with further interest as detailed below from the respective dates mentioned below in column (d) till the date of payment and / or realisation, read with the loan agreement and other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Obligor(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset(s) have been mortgaged to TCHFL by the said Obligor(s) respectively.

Loan Account No	Name of Obligor(s)/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s)	Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.) as on below date	Date of Demand Notice	Date of NPA
9761400	Mr. Shivaramiah .B (Borrower) & Mrs. Sakshi Gangadkar (Co-Borrower)	Rs.7,02,648/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Two Thousand Six Hundred Forty Eight Only)	19th Feb, 2020	
Description of the Secured Assets/Immovable Properties/ Mortgaged Properties : Schedule - A : All the piece and Parcel, of property bearing Site No.80, Khata No.20113/60, measuring to an extent of East to West 40 ft. and North to South 30 feet totally measuring 1200 Sq.ft. Situated at GOMATHA Layout Phase -2, Kodihalli Village, Jaidigamhali Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded as follows : East by: Site No.61, West by: 35 Ft Road, North by: Site No.61, South by: Site No.59				
9010689	Mr. Bangalore Gangappa Kumaraswamy (Borrower) & Mrs. Mysore Somu Usha Rani (Co-Borrower)	Rs.63,45,717/- (Rupees Sixty Three Lakh Forty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Seventeen Only)	19th Feb, 2020	
Description of the Secured Assets/Immovable Properties/ Mortgaged Properties Schedule - A : All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Site No. 350, (being a portion of the converted land in Sy.No.8), Khata No. 1489/1-350, situated at Amruthahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, measuring on the East 117'6"45", on the West 153", on the North 166", and on the South 132"32"6" totally measuring 21055.33 Sq. feet and bounded by : East by: Talacavacy Layout and property belonging to M/s Shivashree Techno Homes Pvt.Ltd. West by: Road, North by: Property belonging to M/s Shivashree Techno Homes Pvt.Ltd. South by: Road & Property belonging to M/s Shivashree Techno Homes Pvt.Ltd. SCHEDULE 'B' : All the piece and parcel of immovable property being a portion of Sy. No. 8, situated at Amruthahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District, measuring East to West (112+112.89)2 feet and North to South (176.46+168.21)2 feet totally measuring 19450 Sq. Feet and bounded by : East by: Talacavacy Layout, West by: Road, North by: Property belonging to S Brunda, South by: Property belonging to M/s Shivashree Techno Homes Pvt.Ltd. SCHEDULE 'C' : All that piece and parcel of immovable property being scheduled A & B properties, totally measuring 42055.33 Sq. feet and bounded by : East by: Talacavacy Layout and property belonging to M/s Shivashree Techno Homes Pvt.Ltd. West by: 30 feet Road, North by: Property belonging to S Brunda, South by: 60 feet Road & Property belonging to M/s Shivashree Techno Homes Pvt.Ltd. SCHEDULE 'D' : Flat No. 303 on the second floor of the Shivapark/Iti Apartments constructed on the schedule 'C' property consisting of living cum dining, bedrooms, toilet, kitchen, balconies etc., along with private common areas and facilities with a super built up area of 1948.82 Sq. feet with vitrified tiles flooring, cement and bricks used for constructions of wall, wood used for preparations of doors and windows and two car parking lots in still bearing No's. 74 & 75, together with undivided interest in land of Schedule 'C' property equivalent to 545.90 Sq. feet is the subject matter of conveyance.				

"with further interest, additional interest at the rate as more particularly stated in respective Demand Notices dated mentioned above, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred till the date of payment and/or realization. If the said Obligor(s) fail to make payment to TCHFL as aforesaid, then TCHFL shall proceed against the above Secured Asset(s)/Immovable Property (ies) under Section 13(4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules entirely at the risk of the said Obligor(s)/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s) as to the costs and consequences. The said Obligor(s)/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s) are prohibited under the said Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset(s)/Immovable Property(ies), whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of TCHFL. Any person who contravenes or aids contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules made thereunder shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act."

Place : Bangalore, Tamilnadu Sd/- Authorized Officer
Date: 15.07.2020 For Tata Capital Housing Finance Limited

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division, RR Nagar Zone, No.144, 2nd Main, Jagajyothi Layout, Bengaluru - 560 056.

No.: EE/KEN/TEND/11/2020-21 Date: 17-07-2020

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through Gok e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division, BBMP, Bengaluru on behalf of the Commissioner, BBMP invites tenders from eligible contractors for the below mentioned construction works.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approximate Value of Work (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
Two Cover System- Call-1			
1	Improvements to Roads and Drains and Providing Asphaltting to Roads Surrounding Manjunatha Choultry in Vajarahalli Village in Hemmigeppura in Ward No.198	100.00	2,00,000/-
2	Improvements to Roads and Drains in Old Kanakapura Road and connecting cross roads in Talaghattapura in Hemmigeppura in Ward No.198	100.00	2,00,000/-
3	Improvements to Roads and Drains in Reshmanagara Main Road and connecting cross roads in Hemmigeppura in Ward No.198.	100.00	2,00,000/-
4	Improvements to Roads and Drains in Southern Area of Ganigarapalya in Hemmigeppura Ward No.198	100.00	2,00,000/-
5	Improvements to Roads and Drains in South side area of Balaji Layout at Vajarahalli in Hemmigeppura Ward No.198	100.00	2,00,000/-
6	Improvements to Roads and Footpath at Ring Road behind Adishwar Show Room Ward No.159.	60.00	1,20,000/-
7	Improvements to Roads and Footpath at Sachidananda Nagara 3rd Cross.	60.00	1,20,000/-
Single Cover System Call-3 (Reserved for ST)			
8	Providing Temporary Control Room in Kengeri Sub Division for 6 months	15.00	18,750/-

Calendar of Events For Sl.No. 1 to 7: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from e-Procurement portal <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> from 27-07-2020, 4.00 PM. (2) Pre-bid meeting: 03-08-2020 at 4.00 PM at O/o Chief Engineer, RR Nagar Zone, RR Nagar. (3) Last date and time for receipt of Tenders: 05-08-2020 upto 4.00 PM. (4) Opening of Bids: 07-08-2020 at 4.00 PM.

Calendar of Events For Sl.No.8: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from e-Procurement portal <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> from 20-07-2020, 4.00 PM. (2) Last date and time for receipt of Tenders: 27-07-2020 upto 4.00 PM. (4) Opening of Bids: 29-07-2020 at 4.00 PM.

Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division
"Pay development charges, help to develop Bengaluru"

Market
Watch548.46
161.75
Sensex
Nifty
37,020.14
10,901.70

MARKET

GOLD
₹5 24 carat (1 gm) ₹4,845
₹5 22 carat (1 gm) ₹4,745SILVER
₹500 Per kg ₹52,300
₹0.50 Per gm ₹52.30FOREX
₹ Dollar 75.02
₹ Euro 85.50

newindianexpress.com

CBIC UNEARTHS ₹1,875 CR FRAUD BY EXPORTERS

Over 1,377 exporters who claimed GST refunds are "untraceable"

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has detected tax fraud worth ₹1,875 crore, as the officials initiated their investigation crackdown of tax evaders and found 1,377 exporters "untraceable". Sources in the tax department say, irregularities were found in their IGST return after matching their invoice and other details.

"After a series of investigation it was found that there were many exporters which have fraudulently claimed integrated goods and service tax (IGST) refund of ₹1,875 crore. When we matched their address, they were untraceable at their place of business," a senior official from CBIC said.

The official said that since last six months, a total of 7,516 exporters were on the risky exporters list and so far IGST refund or drawback of 2,830 exporters worth ₹1,363 crore has been suspended. The officials added that these exporters were kept under "risky" category on the basis of specific risk indicators such as customs, GST, income tax and Director General of Foreign Trade data. Besides, ten star-accredited exporters have wrongfully claimed refunds of ₹28.9 crore.

According to the field officer



After a series of investigation it was found that there were many exporters which have fraudulently claimed IGST refund of ₹1,875 crore. When we matched their address, they were untraceable...

CBIC official

in many cases when they tried to trace the list of suppliers, it was traceable. About 200 odd cases were non-existent.

The board has also detected that 82 suppliers, out of the 234 verified so far, have been found non-existing at their principle place of business. The tax department has also found 695 cases where suppliers of the exporters have availed input credit for which they were not eligible. Out of the 695 cases, in 461 cases IGST refund or drawback amounting to ₹273 crore is under suspension.

Under the GST law, exports are zero-rated supplies.

However, all exports are subject to IGST, which can later be reclaimed through refunds against the tax paid.

Earlier this year, the tax officials detected series of fraudulent tax cases, which included bogus exporters as well as many star rated exporters. After that the revenue department had asked the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) to make the system of accrediting exporters with 'Star' tag more robust since such exporters seem to be enjoying many facilities, including reduced customs inspections.

DEBT FATIGUE

States' borrowings rise 76% to ₹1.93L cr so far in FY21: Care Ratings

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

STATE governments' market borrowings have been growing steadily over the past few years and the severe impact on government revenues due to the pandemic is only set to boost them to record levels.

In order to manage already strained finances, India's state governments have resorted to front-loading their market debt for the year. So far this fiscal year, states market borrowings have risen over 76 per cent more than the previous year, according to Care Ratings.

"The states have resorted to front-loading of market loans (SDLs), having borrowed ₹1.93 lakh crore so far this year (April 1 - July 14)," the report said.

This figure has already been on the upward trajectory for a few years now. The outstanding debt of all the states aggregate to Rs52.6 lakh crore as at the end of FY20 and this number grew at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 14.3 per cent between FY15-FY20. What's more, states' market borrowings grew at a much sharper rate than the

Centre's, which only grew by around 10 per cent CAGR during this period.

"The notable increase in outstanding debt during this phase can be ascribed to robust growth in state market borrowings, funds raised by the state via UDAY bonds in FY16 and FY17 and higher growth in borrowings from banks and financial institutions," Care Ratings said. As for a state-wise snapshot of debt levels, the agency noted that while the top 10 states account for around 72 per cent of all states' debt, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra lead the roost.

However, despite their high debt levels, states like Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Karnataka have a debt-to-GSDP ratio of less than 25 per cent for many years now—a stipulation of the 14th Finance Commission. But, states like Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala have high debt with debt-GSDP ratio levels above the stipulated norm. According to the agency, there are 18 states which have a debt to GSDP ratio of more than 25 per cent.

There are 18 states which have a debt to GSDP ratio of more than 25 per cent, of which 12 of them have a debt-GSDP ratio of more than 30 per cent. These include Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Rajasthan

Care Ratings

JK Tyres plans to scale up biomass usage at its plants to reduce carbon footprint

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

WITH an aim to reduce carbon emissions at its manufacturing units, J K Tyre has planned to double the usage of biomass at its plants in this financial year.

The company said it has been working to reduce coal consumption in its plants and as a step towards the goal it has started using biomass at its units last year. The tyre manufacturer's last year biomass consumption was near eight per cent of its total energy consumption and this year the company has set a target to reach 18 per cent. "We are looking at a largescale biomass usage, but availability and



transportation of biomass still remains an issue. Despite all this, we are keen to use at least 15% to 18% of biomass in our plants, which will give us savings from coal," Anil Makkar, manufacturing director, JK Tyre told this publication.

Required modifications will be made in the plants to ensure that the biomass usage target is

achieved. Makkar added that in 2013, the company had begun taking measures for reducing carbon footprints at its plants and the renewable contribution in 2014 to 2017 was around three per cent. "We worked to rectify this and last year, our total renewable power consumption was almost 50 per cent of the total consumption I had across all plants," said Makkar. He further added that the company has managed to reduce close to 48% of its CO2 emission in the last five years.

As the Covid-19 situation eases, JK Tyre also to add ten million solar power units at its Chennai plant in a bid to enhance solar power efficiency.

TDSAT grants relief to Vodafone Idea

JONATHAN ANANDA @ New Delhi

APEX telecom tribunal TDSAT on Friday extended significant relief to Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel. While telecom regulator TRAI will continue its enquiry into their new priority data plans for mobile customers, the tribunal has issued an interim stay on TRAI's order to halt onboarding new customers.

The direction allows the telcos to continue acquiring new customers for these packages until the TRAI enquiry is complete and final orders are passed. The decision comes after Vodafone Idea Ltd (VIL)

approached the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) praying for relief from the TRAI order.

The TRAI enquiry and the subsequent order came in the wake of a letter sent by Reliance Jio, raising concerns on VIL's RedX plan. According to the TDSAT order, TRAI and Reliance Jio both had argued that offering a "higher or any pre-determined speed for data transfer" through wireless systems were not technically feasible. Thus, they said, "it would not be proper" to allow VIL to acquire subscribers on the basis of "advertisements... assuring higher speed".

PRICE HIKE

₹999
Price of RedX plan when it was launched

₹100
In May, the price was hiked by this much

The matter has been posted for further direction on August 17

While the tribunal agreed on TRAI's powers to conduct the enquiry, it also noted that the "assurance of a priority 4G network" has not been found to violate any of TRAI's direc-

tives on tariffs "even prima facie". As for the promise of higher speeds, the tribunal said that VIL's RedX plans had been modified on May 13 — no longer offering a 50 per cent higher speed but only a "priority 4G network".

"The only justification that suspension would facilitate detailed examination by TRAI is found to be devoid of any merits... it is necessary to withhold/suspend the Vodafone RedX offer forthwith," TDSAT observed, issuing an interim stay on the TRAI order. The tribunal has also asked VIL to file its response to TRAI's questionnaire by July 22.

FMCG sales bounce back to pre-Covid level in June driven by rural demand

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

AFTER months of sluggish demand owing to the virus-led lockdown, the overall sales for fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) industry in June were similar to pre-Covid-19 levels. Other than the obvious categories of food and hygiene, sales of the cosmetics and beauty category has recovered sharply, said Nielsen.

"While soaps and floor cleaners continued to be in shoppers' priority baskets during the lockdown, products such as deodorants, hair colour and skin care were de-prioritised in the

lockdown phase as the majority of people confined to their house. However, these categories have witnessed a sharp bounce back in June," said Sameer Shukla, West Market Leader, South Asia, Nielsen Global Connect.

Even as both urban and rural sales are growing, the sales recovery from undeveloped semi-urban/rural quarters are much faster and traditional trade channels such as neighbourhood and kirana stores have outperformed modern trade outlets and hypermarkets," the market

research firm said. Traditional trade contributed to 88 per cent of sales during this period.

India has witnessed a delayed growth recovery due to extended lockdowns as compared with other global markets such as China, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand, said Nielsen President—South Asia Prasun Basu. "Though it has taken three months, we are kind of coming back to the levels, which we had left behind at the end of 2019 and the beginning of this year, albeit at a slow pace," Basu added.



Robust biscuit sales push up Britannia's profit

SESA SEN @ New Delhi

FAST-moving consumer goods maker Britannia Industries on Friday delivered a strong performance for the first quarter of FY21, ended June, driven by cost cutting, robust sales of biscuits, cookies and cakes as well as operational growth.

Net consolidated profit rose to ₹545.7 crore, compared to ₹251.03 crore in corresponding period last fiscal — a massive 117 per cent jump. Revenue jumped 26.7 per cent year-on-year to ₹3,420.67 crore.

"Given the dynamic nature of the pandemic and associated uncertainty, we were quick to resort to cost efficiencies



through extraction of supply chain efficiencies, reduction in wastages and fixed costs leverage. We also rationalised media spends considering the constraints of inventories due to higher market demand. These measures helped us improve the shape of our business and record a massive increase in

Moderate inflation

On the cost front, Britannia Industries witnessed moderate inflation in the prices of key raw materials. The company said it expects prices to be stable going forward due to a positive outlook on monsoon and harvest.

operating profit during the quarter," said Varun Berry, managing director said.

Britannia's domestic volume growth at 22 per cent in the June quarter as against low single-digit growth reported in the last few quarters. In June quarter of 2019, domestic volume growth hit the lowest at

three per cent. Consolidated earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) grew sharply by 82 per cent year-on-year to ₹717 crore and margin expanded 640bps to 21 per cent.

"This is possibly the best ever metrics — highest sales and highest EBITDA margin," Edelweiss Securities said.

The country's largest biscuit maker also managed to buck up the trend of demand disruptions as consumer staples' segment was the least affected during the lockdown period and there was also a huge surge in in-house consumption. For Britannia, 70-80 per cent of revenue comes from biscuits.

EXPRESS READ

Coffee Day Enterprises Q1 net profit at ₹1,672.41 crore

New Delhi: Coffee Day Enterprises Ltd on Friday reported a consolidated net profit of ₹1,672.41 crore for the April-June quarter, helped by stake sale in Mindtree. The company had posted a net profit of ₹21.06 crore in the April-June quarter a year ago, Coffee Day Enterprises Ltd (CDEL) said in a BSE filing. Its revenue from operation was down 4.06 per cent to ₹926.8 crore as against ₹966.04 crore in the corresponding quarter of the last fiscal. Total expenses stood at ₹1,128.57 crore in the June quarter of the ongoing financial year, as against ₹981.16 crore a year ago, up 15.02 per cent, the company said.

Bank of Maharashtra to offer overdraft facility against FDs via app

New Delhi: State-owned Bank of Maharashtra has launched an overdraft facility against fixed deposits (FDs) for individual customers holding savings bank account through its mobile application 'Mahamobile App'. Customers can avail up to 90 per cent of the fixed deposit value under the overdraft facility, without having to liquidate their fixed deposit receipt, a release said. The facility will help customers meet their funding requirement during the ongoing pandemic. Customers will continue to earn applicable rates of interest on their FDs and can make the payment for the OD facility in lump sum, the bank said.

CHANGE OF GUARD

■ Co-founder Shiv Nadar has stepped down from the position of the Chairman of the Board of directors

■ Roshni Nadar Malhotra, currently non-executive director, has been appointed as the Chairperson



Worst behind & poised for recovery: HCL Tech

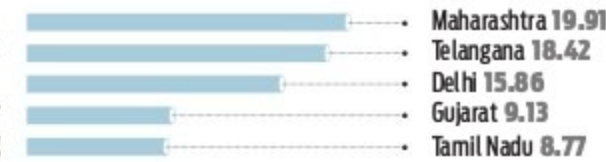
BISMAL MALIK @ Bengaluru

INDIA's third largest IT services provider, HCL Tech reported a 32 per cent increase in the net profit for the first quarter of FY21 at ₹2,925 crore on the back of 11 deal wins, healthy cash reserves and clients pipeline. CEO C Vijayakumar said that the 11 transformational deals that the company signed during the turbulent quarter when the world is reeling under the pandemic helped it sail through the crisis.

The Noida-headquartered tech firm has also provided a revenue guidance for FY21 in the range of 1.5-2.5 per cent on (QoQ) basis and operating margin to be in the range of 19.5-20.5 per cent. For the quarter under review, revenue declined by four per cent to ₹17,841 crore on a QoQ basis. About 96 per cent of its employees continue to work from home, said HCL.

Meanwhile, Shiv Nadar, chairman of the company stepped down from his position and will continue to work as the managing director with the designation of chief strategy officer, Vijayakumar said. He added that Nadar will be replaced by his daughter, Roshni Nadar Malhotra as the chairperson of the Board of Directors and the company from June 17, 2020 onward.

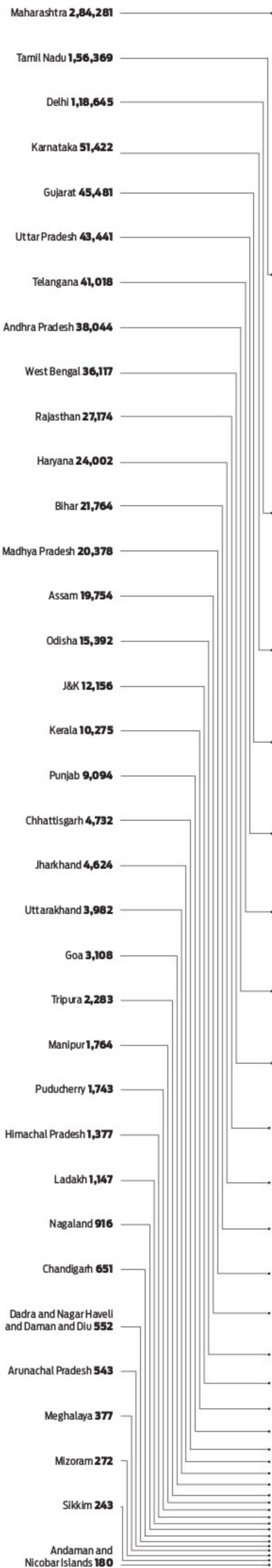
Vijayakumar said that despite the pandemic, the deals pipeline by the end of June quarter was 40 per cent stronger than a quarter ago. "I am happy to report that the resilience of our operating model helped us deliver stellar operating margins and cashflows. We had healthy bookings enabled by 11 new deal wins. We also renewed several large deals during the quarter," he added. Q1 FY21 accounted for more than half (\$757 million) of the total cash flow (\$1.48 billion).



HOW THEY ADD UP

The figures put out by the Central government of the Covid-19 tally of states indicate that new cases are rising sharply in Karnataka, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Assam. Cumulatively, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Delhi are the top three states in terms of total cases. Here's how much each state accounts for in India's total coronavirus tally as of Friday morning

531 cases not assigned to states yet



LAKH & COUNTING

THE MILESTONE OF ONE MILLION CASES INDIA CROSSED ON FRIDAY IS INDEED GRIM BUT OVER 6 LAKH OF THEM HAVE ALREADY RECOVERED, WHICH WORKS OUT TO 63.33% OF ALL POSITIVE CASES SO FAR. WHAT IS WORRYING THOUGH IS NON-METROPOLITAN CITIES WITH POOR HEALTH INFRA NOW SEEM TO BE EMERGING AS THE NEW HOTSPOTS

COVID TESTING REMAINS INDIA'S ACHILLES HEEL, SAY EXPERTS

Karnataka with 30,661 active Covid-19 cases now has the third highest active caseload in the country after Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. Andhra Pradesh with 18,159 cases has overtaken Delhi, which has 17,407 active cases. Experts point out that with states and towns with poorer healthcare facilities reporting higher caseloads, testing needs to be sharpened urgently. Testing has for ever been India's Achilles heel. Even though the country has now tested over 1.3 crore samples with daily testing capacity reaching above 3.2 lakh for the last several days, India's testing rate is lower than countries like the US, Brazil or the UK. An important way to gauge whether enough tests are being carried out is the test positivity rate, which indicates how many per 100 tested were diagnosed with the virus. The lower it is, the better. On Thursday, the test positivity rate (TPR) in India was above 10%. The WHO suggests the TPR should be under 5

CONTACT TRACING, CLEAR TREATMENT PROTOCOL ARE KEY IN VIRUS FIGHT

Public health expert Dr Oommen John said that in terms of public health response contact tracing needs to be strengthened. "Also, with 10 lakh cases India should be in the forefront of generating clinical evidence and contributing to the understanding of pathophysiology," he said. Virologist Dr Shahid Jameel said that 10 lakh is just a number. What's important now is to do everything to slow down the outbreak. "With a couple of drugs now available and with the experience of a million cases we should have clear treatment protocols based on the stage of disease. This will keep our hospitals available to those most sick and will save lives." There also appears to be some silver lining in the Covid-19 cloud. "The good news is that the fatality rate is falling," said Dr Arvinder Singh Soin. "The hospital and ICU recovery rate has improved. Perhaps have become better at treating and the virulence seems to be decreasing"

SOME SIGNS OF HOPE AS PATIENT RECOVERY RATES IMPROVE

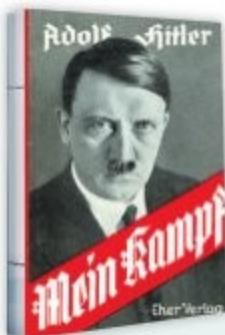
The number of recovered patients increased by 22,942 over 24 hours to 6,35,757 overall in the country. As per the Covid-19 Resource Center, the states such as Gujarat and Tamil Nadu have recorded high recovery rates, at 70.6% and 68.7% respectively. Delhi too has a high recovery rate, at 82.3%. In contrast, Karnataka and Maharashtra score low, at 38.4% and 55.6%. Andhra Pradesh has registered a 51% recovery rate while Telangana has 66.5%. The Central government said in a press release on Friday that a strategy of keeping patients who have mild symptoms, or are asymptomatic, in isolation at home has kept hospitals unburdened. The government also said that less than 1.94% of the cases are in ICUs, 0.35% cases are on ventilators and 2.81% cases are on oxygen beds. In actual numbers, there are 6,643 patients in ICUs, about 1,198 on ventilators and 9,623 on oxygen beds across India, according to government data

1.33 CRORE

samples tested for the coronavirus so far, according to ICMR

3.2 LAKH

samples-a-day testing capacity has been reached recently



DAY'S DIARY

Mein Kampf published

On this day in 1925, seven months after being released from Landsberg jail, Nazi leader Adolf Hitler published the first volume of his personal manifesto, *Mein Kampf*

IN THE BOOK

Mein Kampf, or 'My Struggle', was a bitter narrative filled with anti-Semitic outpourings, disdain for morality, worship of power, and the blueprint for his plan of Nazi world domination



A BIBLE FOR THE PARTY

It was his only complete book and became the bible of National Socialism (Nazism) in Germany's Third Reich. It was published in two volumes in 1925 and 1927



THE WRITER

Although it is thought of as having been 'written' by Hitler, he dictated it to Rudolf Hess while pacing around his prison cell in 1923-24 and later at an inn at Berchtesgaden

'French Biryani will remain a special film for me'

PG 4

While wearing a mask and using hand sanitisers are some of the essential rules to follow at the moment, here are some other key pointers to keep in mind

COVID CARE



DO



Opt for home exercises, gymming or even going to a park at this point is not advisable



'Meet' friends virtually over video conferencing platforms

Check in on older members in your community and family

Eat a diet including citrus fruits (orange, lemon, grapefruit) and vegetables which are rich in vitamin C, vitamin D containing foods (cheese, egg yolks) and zinc-containing foods (legumes, lentils, beans, and nuts)



Clean and disinfect frequently-touched surfaces, like doorknobs, light switches, desks, computers, phones, sinks, faucets and counter tops, regularly

DON'T

Spit at home or outside since it increases the risk of spreading the virus. Avoid this habit



Touch any objects or your face after coughing or sneezing

Share utensils with anyone

Be in crowded places for long durations

Indulge in self-medication. Call up a family physician before taking any sort of medication



Throw a used mask in public spaces like side of footpaths, parks or open ditches. After taking it off, fold it inwards, and wrap it in paper, polythene bag or ziplock bag till you are able to dispose it properly

TALKING POINT

'Creative art shouldn't be this closely connected to commerce'



Express Features

Bollywood should create the belief that it is a system where success can be designed. Everyone is there for an outsider when they are successful. Only in time of crisis do these people have no support

— Praseon Joshi



the ecosystem first. You can't just show the example of an exceptional talent getting it all in Bollywood — not till your weakest link feels supported. Bollywood should create the belief that it is a system where success can be designed," said Praseon, adding, "During success, everyone is there for an outsider. Only in a time of crisis do these people have no support system."

Going on to comment on the growing disconnect between Hindi cinema and reality, he said, "It began when Hindi cinema stopped adapting stories from literature. Nowadays, stories are woven out of a fantasy and are not rooted," said the National Award-winner, who admitted that there will always be space for escapist films. "But now, we see people getting comfortable with their real life. Not everyone needs that flight of fantasy."

He wished for content creators to look ahead. "There is no dearth of content today. Cinema has to evolve to satiate the multiple needs of a variety of people. More importantly, I don't think creative art should be this closely connected to commerce."

Talking about his work as the chairman of the CBFC, Praseon expressed pride in ensuring that a dialogue was created to strike a balance between creative freedom and people's sensibilities. "Before being involved with CBFC, I didn't see artistic work from this vantage point. Let me give you a simple analogy: A river might be calm for the one on the river bank but it is aggressive for the ones swimming against the tide." Praseon added that he believed in the law of the land and despite there being no censors for OTT and small-screen content, he said it is imperative that there is a code of conduct. "More than controls or regulation, accountability is important. Sensitivity towards the audience isn't too much of an ask."

Praseon shared that he kept himself busy during the lockdown by writing songs, penning poems for motivational campaigns, and realising the all-encompassing power of nature. "The collective weight of all the viruses present in the world is less than 1 gram. It has changed the entire world. This is nature telling us who's the boss."

CITY READ

Umbrellas distributed to pourakarmikas

Bangalore North Ladies Circle 14 distributed 45 umbrellas to the pourakarmikas of Dollars Colony for their 45th Charters Day. "I believe the pourakarmikas too need support. With the monsoon season ticking, we wanted to support them in our little way," said Vedika Talreja, chairperson.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, STILL IN ACTION

MS Sathyu, who turned 90 last week, says his love for cinema and filmmaking hasn't faded over the years

Monika Monalisa

The world of art celebrated MS Sathyu's 90th birthday on July 6, but the filmmaker says, "It makes no difference. I am prepared to make a movie or a play but the present condition is such that I can't even step out."

An outdoor person, the veteran filmmaker has been find-

ing life in lockdown difficult to adapt to, especially since, according to him, his work is something he cannot stop doing. Besides walks, the Padma Shri recipient has missed watching movies in theatres the most. "But I prefer single-screen theatres. In a multiplex, people carry their drinks and popcorn while watching a movie. The seriousness of the experience gets lost and it's difficult to concentrate. And you don't have any control on who is go-

ing to sit next to you," says Sathyu. These days, he has been reading books or watching two movies a day. Apart from multiplexes, mobile cameras too annoy him. "I hate them. People keep clicking pictures on them all the time. I use a basic phone which has a camera but I hardly use it. I prefer clicking pictures from an actual camera that has film roll," says Sathyu, who doesn't use WhatsApp either.

Before his 1974 directorial de-

but with *Garm Hava* — the screenplay of which was penned by his wife Shama Zaidi, and late poet Kaifi Azmi — he worked as an art director in Chetan Anand's *Haqeeqat* and also made various ad films, documentaries, children's films, and French and Russian short films. Speaking about art direction, he says, "Just putting up a set was not art direction. When I started, it was black and white cinema so I had to come up with real locations that would

look appealing too," he says. Based on an unpublished short story by noted Urdu writer Ismat Chughtai, the movie revolved around a Muslim family that chooses to stay back in India post Partition. While many believe the movie holds relevance in current times too, Sathyu says filmmakers should treat these topics more sensitively. "It is a delicate matter. If you are anti-Pakistan, that does not mean you are being patriotic towards India. It is dangerous to make such films because it becomes difficult for Indian Muslims. They belong to this country as much as people of any other religion," says Sathyu.

Though a lover of the old school way of filmmaking, Sathyu does not have any issue with technology, but advises filmmakers to understand its use to the fullest. "For instance, when colour was introduced, directors and art directors used gaudy colours on sets. However, some people like Guru Dutt, Bimal Roy and Hrishikesh Mukherjee understood the usage of colour," he says.

Sathyu, who has spent almost 40 years in Mumbai and a few years in Delhi, says though he feels at home in both the cities, he prefers Bengaluru. "I grew up in Mysore, where we lived in a bungalow. But after moving out, I don't have any home for myself. The apartment I live in belongs to my wife. Even though it's not the same as living in a bungalow, it's comfortable and I can't complain about it," says Sathyu, rushing off to select his movie to watch for the day.



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CURRY LEAF POWDER

INGREDIENTS

- Curry leaves: 5-6 sprigs
- Red chillies: 4
- Asafoetida: One small piece
- Roasted chana dal: 1 cup
- Salt as required, and Ghee

METHOD

- Roast the curry leaves in one spoon of ghee.
- Dry roast red chillies and asafoetida.

- Grind all the ingredients, along with chana dal and salt, to a fine powder in a mixer.
- Best suited for idly and dosa as side dish. It can also be had with hot rice.

— by P Vijayalakshmi, Chennai



QUICK FIX

What's cooking IN YOUR KITCHEN DURING THIS LOCKDOWN?

We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com.

KOLAM

8*8 SWASTIK



- Place 8 by 8 straight dots and add two dots on the sides of each corner as shown.
- Now join the dots using straight lines and connect to form a Swastik design.
- You can make it more attractive by drawing some designs inside like the one shown in the final figure.

— by Sowmya Vijay

BRIGHT SPOT

THE POWER OF PONDS

Meet Kaamegowda, fondly known as 'Pond Man' and 'Lake Man'. This 84-year-old shepherd from a remote village in Mandya district has been going about his job of digging ponds quietly on the barren hill near his village to help man and wildlife for four decades now. Kaamegowda became the talk of the town when he was praised for his 'Aatmanirbhar' efforts by none other than Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his 'Mann ki Baat'. Modi had mentioned Kaamegowda and said that at his age, Gowda was doing a wonderful job. "He might have not done bigger lakes, but constructed 16 ponds for which he has invested his energy and time," said the PM. In an earlier interview with TNIE, a happy Kaamegowda said, "Someone in Delhi recognised the work of a person from Daasanadoddi. It looks like Modi too is fond of ponds just like me."

Photo: Pandarinath B



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Boom

Boom is a powerful music player with a magical 3D surround sound, powerful bass and an advanced equaliser. Available on: Android & iOS

FIT BIT

ANANDA BALASANA (HAPPY BABY POSE)

In Sanskrit, 'ananda' means 'happiness', 'bala' means 'child' and 'asana' means 'pose'. This pose offers relief from fatigue and stress. It promotes relaxation and calmness, and is usually practised at the end of a yoga class or right before sleep. It stimulates the Svadisthana (spleen or sacral) chakra, which is the centre of creativity, pleasure and enjoyment. An imbalance in this chakra can lead to sexual difficulties, confusion, purposelessness, jealousy, desire to possess, overindulgence in food or sex, and problems in the genital area, bladder or spleen. This pose can help re-balance this chakra and counteract these negative effects.

STEPS

- Lie down on your back.
- Keep both your hands and feet straight on the floor.
- Exhale, bend your knees and bring them up towards the chest.
- Inhale, raise both hands upwards to hold both toes or grip outside of the feet with your hands.
- Make sure your arms are pulled through the insides of the knees as you hold the feet.
- Keep the shoulders relaxed with the neck and head on the ground.
- Pull down your feet as much as possible.
- Inhale, bring your knees close to your chest with the elbow close to your inner knees. As you exhale, press the knees down towards the side of the chest. Feel a deep stretch inside of the thighs, knees, and hips.
- Hold the pose for about eight to 10 breaths. Make sure the soles of the feet are perpendicular to the knee and the thighs are perpendicular to the bent legs.
- To come out from the pose, release the hands and bring the legs down and go to Savasana.

BENEFITS

- Lengthens and realigns the spine.
- Opens up the shoulders, neck and chest.
- Regular practise helps in stimulating the digestive system and improve blood flow.
- Improves body posture and flexibility in hips.
- Calms the brain and helps relieve stress and fatigue in mind and body.
- Helps bring a deep stretch to the hips, triceps, biceps, hamstrings, calves, chest, abdomen and groin.
- Helpful in reducing the heart rate.
- Helps in relaxing the sacrum.

LIMITATIONS

- Keep a 3-5 hour gap between the practise and your meal.
- Pregnant and menstruating women can avoid this.
- People suffering from high blood pressure should avoid this.
- If you have any kind of injury, avoid this.

— by N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai



SOUND BOARD

BHASKAR BOSE

Bhaskar Bose is an accountant by profession but detective by passion. From missing bodies from graveyards to murders on a film set, Bhaskar Bose and his police sidekick Bilesh solve each case in their inimitable style. On Spotify

GITA FOR THE YOUNG AND RESTLESS

This weekly podcast is presented by Jaya Row, a renowned expert on Indian scripture. In each episode, an aspect of our modern lives is examined through the learnings from our ancient scriptures to provide ageless answers to our most contemporary dilemmas. On Spotify

REVISIONIST HISTORY

Revisionist History is Malcolm Gladwell's journey through the overlooked and the misunderstood. Every episode re-examines something from the past—an event, a person, an idea, even a song—and asks whether we got it right the first time. On Google Podcast

SCIENCE VS

Science Vs takes on fads, trends, and the opinionated mob to find out what's fact, what's not, and what's somewhere in between. On Spotify and Apple Podcast

MILLENNIAL LIFE CRISIS

Millennial Life Crisis is a weekly podcast hosted by Shelby Church and Monica Church, 25-year-old sisters living in different cities. They cover topics such as adulthood, personal finance, moving to a new city, buying a house, and more through the lens of two millennials. On Apple Podcast

POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

KHUSHI KHUSHIYAGI

Raj, who belongs to an affluent family, meets Priya at an event and is spellbound by her beauty. He loses her number, which leads to a string of confusions.

● Cast: Ganesh, Amulya, Nandini Rai

MR AIRAVATA

Airavata, a farmer who was wronged by a few corrupt police officers, decides to take matters into his own hands and joins the police force through wrong means.

● Cast: Darshan, Urvasi Rautela, Prakash Raj

JAANU

Siddharth helps Rukmini reach home when she runs out of money on a trip. Rukmini's family attack Siddharth, but welcome him after learning the truth. Both fall in love, but a surprise awaits them.

● Cast: Yash, Deepa Sannidhi, Rangayana Raghu

RAAVANAN

After inspector Dev stirs the reign of Veeralaya, a tribal outlaw, the latter responds by kidnapping his wife, Ragini. While she tries to escape from him, Dev fights many resistances to find her.

● Cast: Aishwarya Rai, Prithviraj Sukumaran, Vikram



Scan this QR code to find out how your favourite celebs are coping with the lockdown.

WHAT'S ON TED TALKS



1 THE IMAGINARY KING WHO CHANGED THE REAL WORLD BY MATTEO SALVADORE

In 1165, copies of a strange letter began to circulate throughout Europe. It spoke of a fantastical realm, containing the Tower of Babel and the Fountain of Youth—all ruled over by the letter's mysterious author: Prester John. Who was this powerful ruler, and was he even real? Matteo Salvatore shares the legend.



2 EVERY DAY YOU LIVE, YOU IMPACT THE PLANET BY JANE GOODALL

In conversation with head of TED, Chris Anderson, primatologist Jane Goodall tells the story of her formative days working with chimpanzees, how she transformed from a revered naturalist into a dedicated activist.



3 DOES 'THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ' HAVE A HIDDEN MESSAGE? BY DAVID B PARKER

Some scholars have found hidden criticisms of late-nineteenth-century economic policies in 'The Wonderful Wizard of Oz'. Is it possible that one of America's favorite children's stories is also a subversive parable? David B Parker investigates the text for clues.



4 HAWKING'S BLACK HOLE PARADOX EXPLAINED BY FABIO PACUCCI

Every object in the universe is composed of particles with unique quantum properties and even if an object is destroyed, its quantum information is never permanently deleted. But what happens to that information when an object enters a black hole? Fabio Pacucci investigates.



5 HOW TECH COMPANIES DECEIVE YOU INTO GIVING UP YOUR DATA AND PRIVACY BY FINN LÜTZOW-HOLM MYRSTAD

Finn Lützw-Holm Myrstad shares insights about the personal information you've agreed to let companies collect — and how they use your data at a scale you could never imagine.

REGIONAL



AVANE SRIMANNARAYANA (Kannada)

In pursuit of solving a long-held mystery of Amaravati, Narayana — the quirky new cop in the town — has to get past a dreaded clan of dacoits and its fierce leader Jairam.

- Cast: Rakshit Shetty, Shanvi Srivastava, Achyuth Kumar
- Watch on: Amazon Prime
- Registration: ₹ 129 per month

OK KANMANI (Tamil)

Two youngsters Adi and Tara are attracted to each other when they meet at a wedding. Since they do not believe in marriage, they decide to live together. What follows forms the crux of the story.

- Cast: Dulquer Salmaan, Nithya Menen, Leela Samson
- Watch on: Disney+ Hotstar
- Registration: ₹ 399 per year

NATSAMRAT (Marathi)

After retirement, Ganpat Belwalkar, a Shakespearian actor, divides his property among his two children. However, their ungratefulness leaves Ganpat and his wife homeless during their old age.

- Cast: Nana Patekar, Medha Manjekar, Vikram Gokhale
- Watch on: Netflix
- Registration: ₹ 199 per month



DEAR COMRADE (Telugu)

Bobby, a student union leader with anger issues, falls in love with Lily, a state-level cricketer. However, his temperament poses an obstacle in his path to being united with Lily.

- Cast: Vijay Deverakonda, Rashmika Mandanna, Shruti Ramadandran
- Watch on: Amazon Prime
- Registration: ₹ 129 per month



MERKU THODARCHI MALAI (Tamil)

Rengaswamy, a labourer, wishes to own a land and earn a livelihood by farming. But when his dreams come true with the help of a politician, he is forced to face even bigger challenges in his life.

- Cast: Gayathri, Antony, Abu Valayankulam
- Watch on: Netflix
- Registration: ₹ 199 per month

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

WEEKEND (Kannada)

Set in the modern world, the story revolves around techies with employment and ones without. Among these two groups, a techie Ajay who is raised masterfully good by his grandfather Anant Ram, will be leading a happy life. But on a particular weekend a certain mysterious things starts to unfold around these two which will change their lives and others lives too.

- Cast: Milind, Sanjana Burli, Anant Nag
- Watch on: Amazon Prime
- Registration: ₹ 129 per month

FIDAA (Telugu)

Varun, an NRI medical student, and Bhanu, a vivacious, young woman, fall in love with each other. However, they face many personal differences that create complications in their relationship.

- Cast: Sai Pallavi, Varun Tej, Harshvardhan Rane
- Watch on: Amazon Prime
- Registration: ₹ 129 per month



ENGLISH/FOREIGN



HONEY BOY (English)

When 12-year-old Otis begins to find success as a television star, his abusive, alcoholic father returns and takes over as his guardian, and their contentious relationship is followed over a decade.

- Cast: Shia LaBeouf, Noah Jupe, Lucas Hedges
- Watch on: Amazon Prime
- Registration: ₹ 129 per month



THE OLD GUARD (English)

A group of mercenaries, all centuries-old immortals with the ability to heal themselves, discover someone is onto their secret, and they must fight to protect their freedom.

- Cast: Charlize Theron, Luca Marinelli, Kiki Layne
- Watch on: Netflix
- Registration: ₹ 199 per month

TOY STORY 4 (English)

Woody attempts to make Forky, a toy, suffering from existential crisis, realise his importance in the life of Bonnie, their owner. However, things become difficult when Gabby Gabby enters their lives.

- Cast: Tom Hanks, Tim Allen, Keanu Reeves, Annie Potts
- Watch on: Disney+ Hotstar
- Registration: ₹ 399 per year



THE MUMMY (English)

When an archaeologist couple's son finds the Bracelet of Anubis, it locks onto his wrist. A cult resurrects Imhotep, an evil Egyptian high priest, who needs the bracelet to defeat the Scorpion King.

- Cast: Rachel Weisz, Brendan Fraser, Patricia Velasquez
- Watch on: Netflix
- Registration: ₹ 199 per month

NOW STREAMING



Hello, my Bangalore.

As I sit down to write this column, for the first time I am feeling low, alienated and vulnerable. I am putting it out there because some of my readers and acquaintances feel that I should always be on a high-voltage motivational performance mode... and frankly, it is starting to annoy and irritate me. Just because stand-up comedy is one of my genres, it doesn't naturally mean that I am always happy to give you a gifted rep-

CAN ONLY GOD HELP US?

artee just because you expect it from me. I am certainly not there to amuse and entertain you at the drop of a hat! Many well-meaning friends are quick to point out that I should be doing online shows to promote myself further. Honestly! Don't they realise how condescending and insulting it sounds to me? I have been a performing artiste, writer and corporate nurturer for over 20 years. I am still working (thank you!) with corporates as a trainer and motivator online. I am the only woman in the world using humour as a training tool. Why should I make little videos or voice re-

cordings of myself and try to emulate other 'funny people'? Making people smile or laugh makes me feel good, and I made it a part of my vast repertoire over 20 years ago when the others were in diapers! Why do I rant, you may ask. Well, because giving personal examples always forms a deeper sense of identifiability rather than being generic with my audience or readers. I have always been forthcoming during my inter-personal conversations, through my writing or corporate seminars, even while dealing with touchy subjects like sexual harassment or the 'me too' movement. As



Representational photo | Vinod Kumar T

Indians, we are naturally reticent and secretive because it has always been frowned upon in our culture (especially for women) to share. We have been brought up to believe that what happens at home stays at home (I hope that was true) and if one shared or complained, 'people' would snigger or ostracise you. Somehow, the 'good family name' rested squarely on the victim's shoul-

ders! We are a paradoxical people. We are suspicious, superstitious, selfish and self-centered (I have used all the possible unkindly adjectives) on one hand, and trusting, liberal, generous and helpful on the other. We will share our meagre food with you and yet spit, cough and fight to wear a mask or maintain social distancing. Just look at our booze shops. Forget

social distancing, the people standing in the queue (some even hanging on to each other's shoulders) look like long-lost lovers!

We are all trying to wrap our heads around this situation. What is appalling is that a 'famine type situation' has set in. In a crisis, human beings tend to get into a very ugly and dangerous behaviour pattern. It is only the same amongst us that must valiantly remind ourselves on a daily basis that we too must not succumb and not forget that we are an evolved species. We must not become jaded or give up. When we open our doors after this crisis has passed, we must be able to recognise ourselves as human beings.

My neighbour who is a

builder forced himself and his cronies into his office ostensibly for an hour because he had to fill out a 'government' tender, blatantly flouting the lockdown. Of course, I appealed to his better senses (where he only ended up threatening me), the police (who were clueless about the convoluted BBMP rules), and my local MLA, but to no avail. As I write this, they sit boldly ensconced in their office. It is a helpless situation as our neighbourhood is rampant with Corona cases. It's also not re-assuring to hear our health minister say that only God can help us.

Perhaps it's true that only 'He'/'She' can help us. Humans certainly don't want to help each other.



Fan moment

It's difficult to find someone who does not like the TV show *Friends*. Actor Meghna Gaonkar loves the show so much that she got herself a coffee table book in 2004. She posted a picture of it on Thursday on Instagram and wrote, "This show has helped me in more ways than one...from bettering my English speaking to even getting me through some tough times in life, simply watching & having a good laugh was so great when I needed it the most, even just generally this show has made life better for me..."



(From left) Eric Gerald, Joseph Samuel, James Stephenus and Jared Sandhy

This Sunday, Bengaluru band Final Surrender will perform at Mexico's virtual Exodo Fest – a plan that has been on the cards since 2015

Express Features

If all had gone as expected, Bengaluru-based band, Final Surrender, might have been in Mexico to perform at the Exodo Fest. But, in a way, the pandemic has been in a blessing in disguise. Says the band's drummer, Jared Sandhy, who adds that performing at the festival has been on the cards since 2015 but never worked out. On Sunday, the band will perform their original tracks at the virtual festival, which also features a host of America's top rock and metal bands. Some of the bands that have per-

formed there in the past include August Burns Red, Deciple, and War of Ages.

"Our music includes guitar riffs and drum grooves that are fused with high-energy scream-type vocals," says Sandhy, whose progressive metal core band was formed in December 2010, along with singer Joseph Samuel. The group now comprises Joseph Samuel (vocals), James Stephenus (guitars) and Eric Gerald (bass) in addition to Sandhy.

It started in 2013, when they got their first international signing with artiste record label 'Rottweiler Records' for their second full-length album. Called Empty Graves, it was

produced by Rocky Gray, a Grammy winning artiste (Evanescence, Living Sacrifice) which was on the top 40 charts of iTunes Rock. "We were on 33 international radio stations where the songs aired for their local top 10 rock and metal charts, with big names such as 'Pulse Radio', Pure Rock Radio Canada. Which is how we gained traction in the international market, and were approached in 2015 by organisers of the fest," he says.

To keep the show as engaging as it would have been offline, the band is working out stories to go with each of the songs. "It is an entirely different experience performing online, espe-

cially in terms of energy. Metal is all about head-banging, which is going to be missing," he says, adding that keeping the attention of audience online is harder. "Our challenge is re-creating the offline setting in an online space. So, we need to have video engagement in addition to audio," he says.

Some of the original songs that will be performed include *Inertia*, *Tear Down The Walls*, *In They Hands* – where the music in all of them arises from a place of contempt about issues in life but sends out an emotion of hope. "It's just ironic that it could be perceived so in light of the pandemic, but it doesn't really have a connect," he says.



SOULFUL

The right kind of education

Present-day education is a complete failure because it has overemphasized technique. In overemphasizing technique we destroy man. To cultivate capacity and efficiency without understanding life, without having a comprehensive perception of the ways of thought and desire, will only make us increasingly ruthless, which is to endanger wars and jeopardize our physical security. The exclusive cultivation of technique has produced scientists, mathematicians, bridge builders, space conquerors; but do they understand the total process of life? Can any specialist experience life as a whole? Only when he ceases to be a specialist.

Technological progress does solve certain kinds of problems for some people at one level, but it introduces wider and deeper issues too. To live at one level, disregarding the total process of life, is to invite misery and destruction. The greatest need and most pressing problem for every individual is to have an integrated comprehension of life, which will enable him to meet its ever-increasing

complexities.

Technical knowledge, however necessary, will in no way resolve our inner, psychological pressures and conflict; and it is because we have acquired technical knowledge without understanding the total process of life that technology has become a means of destroying ourselves. The man who knows how to split the atom but has no love in his heart becomes a monster.

We choose a vocation according to our capacities; but will the following of a vocation lead us out of conflict and confusion? Some form of technical training seems necessary; but when we have become engineers, physicians, accountants – then what? Is the practice of a profession the fulfilment of life? Apparently with most of us it is. Our various professions may keep us busy for the greater part of our existence; but the very things that we produce and are so entranced with are causing destruction and misery. Our attitudes and values make of things and occupations the instruments of envy, bitterness and hate.

— Jiddu Krishnamurti

Vidya Iyengar

Going for a concert, and participating in karaoke nights was just a way of life until the pandemic changed all of this overnight. Worst hit are artistes, who have been re-inventing themselves from day one to adapt to the new normal. One such family is of KJ Abhishek Nagarkar, and his father – veteran television actor Anand Nagarkar – who started online karaoke sessions when the lockdown began. On Sunday, they will hit their 100th show. Other family members, including Abhishek's mother Sunila Nagarkar (theatre artiste) and wife Preethi Nagarkar (a professional tattoo artiste), are also a part of 'Karaoke evenings with the Nagarkars'. "With the lockdown, we suddenly found ourselves with a lot of time on hand. When restaurants and bars shut, so did karaoke jockeying. With serials going off air, my dad too has been out of work. In addition, him being a senior means it's harder to find roles," says Abhishek.

But the sessions which are held between 7pm-8.30pm have not only helped them cope with various situations but has also given them a new direction. "It just started out with Preethi suggesting that we go live and sing. Now, we find that even if we are delayed by five minutes in starting, we have people asking where we are. So, in a way that is gratifying," says Abhishek, whose family sings songs ranging from Sandalwood numbers to those by Johnny Cash and Arijit Singh. "Kannada, Tamil, English and Hindi are what we're performing in right now, and



KJ Abhishek Nagarkar with his family

FUN WITH FAMILY

it's all clean so that any age group can enjoy it," he says. The 100th episode (between 4.30pm-8pm) will also see performances by other family members, including Hindustani classical vocalist Samarth Nagarkar.

Right now going live on Facebook (KaraokeNMore), they find that to be the best platform. "We did try to make it interactive, besides the comments, but the feed quality dropped. So we're sticking to this but taking feedback by holding polls to un-

derstand likes and dislikes. It is quite different from an offline show where it's much easier to gauge the reaction of the audience through their emotions, but we're figuring out ways to work around it," he says, pointing out that they have viewers from other parts of India, Australia and America.

While they have been doing this every day in the last couple of months, the frequency might reduce to twice or thrice a week, a call they are yet to take. "From what we understand, the scene for artistes isn't going to open up until at least December. And even after things reopen, I don't know whether I'd be comfortable going and picking up a mic used by someone else. At this point, we have to figure out different ways to showcase our art, and this is just the beginning," he says, adding that with the show's rising popularity, a digital tip jar has also seen contributions, boosting the morale of the artistes.

Even after things reopen, I don't know whether I'd be comfortable picking up a mic used by someone else. At this point, we have to figure out different ways to showcase our art

— Abhishek Nagarkar, KJ



'ART SCHOOLS MUST BE ALLOWED TO OPEN'

Recently in Bengaluru, a lady on the street asked my husband Rajendra and me, "When's your next concert? I attend all your concerts and love them a lot." We said, "Please pray for it! It will happen soon." The lady walked away saying, "Please dance, please perform, where else can people like me go?" Her eyes were gleaming with hope. For people like her, attending concerts was a way to experience joy. By such enjoyment, she like many others, can do their duties peacefully.

Born and raised in Bengaluru, we have a special feeling for this city. We have both grown up attending the best of concerts by great artistes. As performers presenting classical art in creative ways, we have experienced how Bengaluru's cosmopolitan audiences have greatly encouraged our art. The city embraces both old and new warmly. It has always uplifted the energy of artistes from all genres.

But for Covid, our dear Bengaluru would have proudly showcased some 800 stage concerts in the last few months involving more than 6,000 artistes including musicians, dancers, actors, sound and light technicians, make up artists, and costume makers. Tens of thousands of art lovers would have enjoyed it. Art is a great catalyst for joy and wellness. It is hope for the world. We say this with conviction as we see how children, teenagers, working professionals, homemakers, and so forth invariably feel good about pursuing art; it beats the pressures of life.



• Nirupama Rajendra
Indian classical dance exponent

Bengaluru needs to re-energise, re-vamp, and represent arts to the world in a refreshing way.

Solution: We need to recognise art and artists as significant contributors to the well-being of a society. Art schools must be allowed to open. These institutions have a limited number of students per class compared to regular schools. Theatres can also be open for concerts with limited audiences. Cafés can hold dialogues between artists and art lovers over a cup of coffee. We could also look at cross-cultural workshops. Artists during lockdown have become more creative so special festivals featuring new collaborations can be organised.

It's time to bring the beauty of arts back to Bengaluru.

(The writer is the founder and artistic director of Abhinava Dance Company)

Let your mixed feelings about Bengaluru get stirred up, as an influential person talks about things nice and nasty about the city in this weekly column

TOPPERS

NATIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOL - RAJAJINAGAR (CLASS 10 - CBSE)

99.4%	99.2%	99.2%	99%
Ruchitha M	Anusha Kallur	Dev Banthia	Rahul Ravishankar

CLASS 12 - CBSE

97.4%	96.6%
Sukeerth Ramkumar	Ashutosh M Bharadwaj
96.4%	
S Ravi Sanker	



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Disha Madan

'FRENCH BIRIYANI' WILL REMAIN A SPECIAL FILM FOR ME'

... says Disha Madan, as she talks about her debut film starring Danish Sait, and reveals that shooting for the movie when she was in initial stages of pregnancy was a "secret mission" known only to a chosen few, including director Pannaga Bharana

I don't see a lot of women doing comedy these days, and even if they do, you don't see them much on the big screen today. They have stuck to social media and OTT platforms.
—Disha Madan, actor

A Sharadhaa
Lockdown has not distanced Disha Madan from the camera. The actor, who has been entertaining the audience on social media by putting video compilations, has even taken responsibility of saying 'action' and 'cut'. "There is this creative side to me that I always wanted to nurture, and the lockdown has allowed me to explore that area. I was off social media last year, and I wanted to come back with s videos that people can relate to. As of now, I am coming up with mother-related stuff. This comes in a flow because I sit and think of what all my mother did in college, and multiply it by 100, and make the intensity too high. It seems to work well," says Disha, who is also in the news for her upcoming film, *French Biryani*, which will be out on the OTT platform on July 24. The film, created by PRK Productions, directed by Pannaga Bharana,

features her alongside Danish Sait, Sal Yusuf and Rangayana Raghu, among others. The actor, who made a transition from TV to cinema, is all excited to make her debut with *French Biryani*. "It was fun to be working with a no-brainer script, and with nothing much to think about. The film had Danny (Danish Sait), who is my good friend, and then there was Panna (Pannaga Bharana), and I said why not, and picked up this project," says Disha, who took a little long to make her presence felt in movies. "I did have a lot of opportunities I was working in TV serials, but I never felt that I was getting the right script, or that it was the right time. Being a Bharatanatyam dancer, I had zero experience in acting when I began, and the serial was where I had the maximum exposure. It was a great learning experience. However, I had to quit the serial a year and a half later because of my personal life. I never expected to get married or have a baby that early, it just escalated so fast, which I don't regret," she says. Disha feels that she is more inclined towards playing humour-based characters. "I don't see a lot of women doing comedy these days, and even if they

do, you don't see them much on the big screen today. They have stuck to social media and OTT platforms. Even in Kannada films, nothing much happens in the comedy scenario, especially from the female characters. Considering all this, I was interested in doing roles that will show the comic side of me. In *French Biryani*, the whole point of working with Danny was to bring the best out of me through him. He encourages you to do well on screen, and so does Panna. That's one of the reasons that attracted me to do this script. This is what I will be considering in my future projects too. I feel there is a lot of serious cinema happening now, but once in a while, you want to do something fun," she explains. However, she is aware that only comedy doesn't take an actor far. "You can't just be a comedian or a contemporary actor. An artist should have everything under the umbrella. If my strength is comedy, that doesn't mean I can't do anything else. But having strength in a niche area like comedy works wonders for an actor," she opines. Ask her if she will never go around trees, and she chuckles, "Probably if a good script comes my way, I will do it, if it has some comedy elements too." Throwing some light on her role in *French Biryani*, in which she plays a news reporter, Disha reveals that she shot it during her initial stages of

pregnancy. "I called up Panna, and explained it to him. But he was very clear and insisted that I play the part. I tried completing the entire shooting for my character before my bump showed up. This was a secret mission between Panna and me, and only a handful of people knew that I was expecting a baby. In that way, it is a very special film," says Disha, adding, "I was lucky not to have morning sickness, though I once threw up in my caravan. But no one knew what was happening. In a way, shooting for *French Biryani* kept me physically active, which I needed during pregnancy." After *French Biryani*, Disha will be seen in the web series titled *Hate You Romeo*, and yet another film with Danish Sait titled *Humble Politician Nograj*, which will be shown on the OTT platform. With her three projects seeing a digital release, Disha's silver screen dream is yet to come to reality. "I wouldn't say that it is yet to happen, because these films that I am part of are quite enormous. Moreover, Amazon Prime is not less of a platform when compared to theatres. I am sure to miss the buzz of watching my film in theatres, but considering the situation, I am just going to make do with what's happening in the comfort of home. I am equally looking forward to it with a lot of excitement," she says. "I am an actor who loves to entertain. In the end, I want to bring smiles on people's faces," she signs off.



Virgin Bhanupriya: Puerile comedy that fails to score

• Shilajit Mitra

By and large, Hindi adult comedies fall under two categories. There are the bawdy innuendo-fests exemplified by the *Masti-Kyaa Kool Hain Hum* films. And there's the Ayushmann Khurrana variant, considerably tame works that carry a message and can be viewed with the family. Once in a while, though, comes a film that tries to merge both. *Virgin Bhanupriya*, out on ZEE5, is neither coarsely funny nor insightful about its female protagonist. Shoddy and insensitive, it sets a benchmark for the kind of puerile junk that gets dumped on OTT.

Director: Ajay Lohan
Cast: Urvashi Rautela, Gautam Gulati, Rumana Molla, Archana Puran Singh
Streaming on: ZEE5
RATING 1/5

It's rare for a Hindi film to put female sexuality at its centre. Virginity, for the most part, is held up as a character-affirming virtue in our movies. It's a bane for our heroes; the heroines are better off preserving themselves for 'the one'. By flipping this concept, *Virgin Bhanupriya* appears to lift the stigma around female desire. It doesn't work, however, as the film sidelines the sexual awakening of its protagonist in favour of cringy puns and gags. Director Ajay Lohan's script gets increasingly problematic. There's a fat joke every ten minutes. Bhanu is advised to 'rape' her way to sex. There's a bizarre sequence where she forces herself on a guy, followed by the guy trying to incapacitate her with booze. When he fails, he insults her and leaves (the film is some-

how convinced this is both romantic and funny, with a squeaky background score to diffuse the mood). Urvashi, in a geeky hairdo and specs, does little else than look flummoxed and smile. It's a departure from her erotic appearances in the past, though the film throws in a jarring seduction number near the start. The great Archana Puran Singh stays funny while making racist jokes or teaching her daughter to cuss. Her sidelong, disapproving stares reminded me of her turn in *Oye Lucky! Lucky Oye!*, and how infrequently she's cast in our movies. The more entertaining cameo, however, belongs to Brindha Kala, as a cop who walks off with his prize. In a film full of abrupt letdowns, he's the only one to get lucky.



VIRGIN BHANUPRIYA

Nikhil Dwivedi to produce a film on '90s star Mamta Kulkarni

• CE Features

Producer Nikhil Dwivedi has bought the rights of Bilal Siddiqi's book *The Stardust Affair*, based on the life of '90s sensation Mamta Kulkarni. Known for her appearances in films like *Aashik Awara*, *Karan Arjun* and *Sabse Bada Khiladi*, Mamta Kulkarni quit the film industry in the early 2000s. She later moved to Nairobi, Kenya and was accused in a drug racket in 2016. "Nikhil has acquired the rights to Bilal Siddiqi's book, *The Stardust Affair*, which is loosely based on the tumultuous and eventful life of Mamta Kulkarni," says

a source. "Her life and journey is something that almost everyone is aware of. Right from being a Bollywood star to becoming a 'godmother' to allegedly being Dawood Ibrahim's girlfriend, Mamta Kulkarni has always been in the headlines. The book will serve as the base for Nikhil's next production and the producer will release an official announcement once all the formalities are complete." Speaking about the project, the source adds, "Work on the film's script will begin soon after all modalities are locked and once the shoots begin, the team will finalise a leading lady to shoulder the project as well."



Mamta Kulkarni



This courtroom drama makes a case for women's rights

• A Sharadhaa

A young couple on a jolly ride bumps into a young girl, who is chased by three men. They offer to help her, enquire about her injury, and without any hesitation, she replies, "I was gangraped." Although she is in need of a hospital, the girl chooses to go to the police station first. She is abused, she is suppressed, she is stifled, but nothing deters the young law graduate, Nandini Vardhan (Ragini Pranjwal), to fight her own case and stand in solidarity with other women in the society. In her fight, Nandini uses the strongest weapon — Truth. However, not everything is in black and white in this quest for justice. This legal drama focuses on the relentless struggle for justice for sexual-assault survivors despite insurmountable odds. Young director Raghu Samarth has come up with an absorbing film that incorporates the necessary thrills to the routine proceedings of a courtroom drama. The initial episodes portray how some cops handle such cases, and provides a reflection of their insensitivity. The case takes a serious turn when Nandini seeks the help of social media to take up her cause. This public support results in the Crime Branch getting involved and officer Parthasarathy Brahma (Hebbale Krishna) taking charge. A case that was in cold storage for three long months is suddenly revived

by Brahma and the investigation points to three men, among one coming from a political background, to be the prime suspects. Throughout this film, we see Nandini not showing any signs of weaknesses, which is often used to portray a sexual assault survivor, and go about her daily routine. But then, there comes the twist that brings all the difference to this legal drama. In a non-linear form of narration, we see how Nandini's guru, Jagadish Prakash (Achyuth Kumar), and his daughter, Dashmi (Siri Prahlad), a mute by birth, are also somehow involved in this case. The second half of the film, mostly set in the court, works effectively on not just high drama but also subtle doses of humour, coming from the judge played by Mukhya Mantri Chandru. Nandini, in her first case, squares off against senior criminal lawyer Shyam Prasad (Rajesh Nataranga). Will she be able to nail down the culprits, and fight back against the rape culture? What pushes her to fight the good fight on her own? These questions make up the rest of the film. Raghu Samarth has handled an unusual plot, which makes the audience think if such cases actually exist.

Through this, he has managed to explore how such cases are usually handled by the police and law, and how the rich, despite all misdoings, go scot-free. However, considering this is a blazing issue, the sensitive subject falls short on a strong and intriguing narrative. At the same time, the director does makes sure the topic is not ignored. Ragini Pranjwal, in her debut film, has taken a lot of responsibilities in this women-centric subject. It is a good attempt by the newcomer, who is ably supported by a lot of senior actors, including Avinash, who makes a mark as Nandini's father. Other actors like Achyuth Kumar, Rajesh Nataranga, Mandya Ramesh, and Sudharani ensure the film is effective in what it is trying to say. The film also boasts of a subtle score by Vasuki Vaibhav, and balanced visuals by cinematographer Sugnaan. *Law*, which was directly released on OTT through Amazon Prime Video, is bankrolled by PRK Productions backed by Puneeth Rajkumar and Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar. The film, which revolves around issues for women does warrant our one-time attention, and surely sticks to the banner's principle of backing content-driven films.

Director: Raghu Samarth
Production house: PRK Production (Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar and Govind)
Cast: Ragini Pranjwal, Avinash Achyuth Kumar and Siri Prahlad
RATING 2.5/5

Lightheartedness of Lootcase was welcome: Rasika

• CE Features

Kunal Keemu-Rasika Dugal's *Lootcase* is premiering on Disney+ Hotstar on July 31. The crime-comedy is directed by Rajesh Krishnan and also stars Gajraj Rao, Vijay Raaz and Ranvir Shorey. On appearing in a comedy after projects like *Manto* and *Hamid*, Rasika shares, "*Lootcase* was one of those experiences when I had to just turn up on set and have fun. I had started shooting for the film straight after the shoot of *Delhi Crime* had wrapped and the lightheartedness of *Lootcase* was very welcome. Most of my scenes were with Kunal and Aaryan (child actor). Both have super comic timing and I thoroughly enjoyed playing off that energy." Rasika's upcoming releases are *Mirzapur Season 2*, *Delhi Crime Season 2*, *Lord Curzon Ki Haveli*, and a few unannounced projects.